

Fred M w  
*Pro se*

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

In re:	)	Chapter 11
CELSIUS NETWORK LLC, <i>et al.</i> <sup>1</sup>	)	Case No. 22-10964 (MG)
Debtors.	)	(Jointly Administered.)
<hr/>		
FRED M ,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	Adv. Pro. No. 22-01190(MG)
v.	)	
CELSIUS NETWORK LLC;	)	
CELSIUS KEYFI LLC;	)	
CELSIUS LENDING LLC;	)	
CELSIUS MINING LLC;	)	
CELSIUS NETWORK INC.;	)	
CELSIUS NETWORK LIMITED;	)	
CELSIUS NETWORKS LENDING LLC;	)	
And CELSIUS US HOLDING LLC	)	
<hr/>		
Defendants <sup>2</sup> .	)	
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<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: Celsius Network LLC (2148); Celsius KeyFi LLC (4414); Celsius Lending LLC (8417); Celsius Mining LLC (1387); Celsius Network Inc. (1219); Celsius Network Limited (8554); Celsius Networks Lending LLC (3390); and Celsius US Holding LLC (7956). The location of Debtor Celsius Network LLC's principal place of business and the Debtors' service address in these chapter 11 cases is 121 River Street, PH05, Hoboken, New Jersey 07030.

<sup>2</sup> The GK8 Debtors/all GK8 entities are also defendants, I did not include them in the header/summons since I do not believe that doing so would be proper, as they have a separate bankruptcy. Please interpret this as is proper

## **TABLE OF AUTHORITIES**

### **CASES**

*See Pearlman v. Reliance Ins. Co.*, 371 U.S. 132, 135-36 (1962).

*Moody v. Amoco Oil Co.*, 734 F.2d 1200, 1213 (7th Cir. 1984).

*In re Roblin Indus., Inc.*, 78 F.3d 30, 39-41 (2d Cir. 1996) (quoting *In re Tolona Pizza Products Corp.*, 3 F.3d 1029 (7th Cir.1993)).

*Enron Creditors Recovery Corp. v. Alfa, S.A.B. de C.V.*, 651 F.3d 329 (2d Cir. 2011).

*Owens v. Taliban*, 2022 WL 1090618, at \*2 (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 11, 2022).

*TAGC Mgmt., LLC v. Lehman*, 842 F. Supp. 2d 575, 586 (S.D.N.Y. 2012).

*Musket Corp. v. PDVSA Petroleo S.A.*, 512 F.Supp.2d 155, 160 (S.D.N.Y.2007).

*Katz Agency, Inc. v. The Evening News Association*, 514 F.Supp. 423, 429 (S.D.N.Y.1981)).

*Moran v. Arcano*, No. 89 Civ. 6717(CSH), 1990 WL 96761, at \*2 (S.D.N.Y. July 3, 1990).

*Bally Total Fitness*, 402 B.R. at 624.

*In re Motors Liquidation*, 2010 WL 4630327..

*In re New York Classic Motors, LLC*, 2021 WL 2285440, at \*5 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. June 4, 2021).

*In re Rodgers*, 333 F.3d 64 (2d Cir. 2003).

*Lyon v. Contech Constr. Prods., Inc. (In re Computrex, Inc.)*, 403 F.3d 807 (6th Cir. 2005).

*In re Munroe*, 183 B.R. 667 (Bankr. D.R.I. 1995).

*JP Morgan Chase v. J.H. Elec. of N.Y., Inc.*, 69 A.D.3d 802, 803, 893 N.Y.S.2d 237 (2d Dep’t 2010).

*Furia v. Furia*, 116 A.D.2d 694, 498 N.Y.S.2d 12, 13 (2d Dep’t 1986).

*Golden v. Guardian (In re Lenox Healthcare, Inc.)*, 343 B.R. 96, 100 (Bankr. D. Del. 2006).

*In re S.W. Bach & Co.*, 435 B.R. 866, 878 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2010)..

*MCZ, Inc. v. Andrus Res., Inc. (In re MCZ, Inc.),* 82 B.R. 40, 42 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. 1987).

*In re Columbia Pac. Mortg., Inc.,* 20 B.R. 259, 262–64 (Bankr. W.D. Wash. 1981).

*In re Apollo Air Passenger Computer Reservation Sys. (CRS),* 720 F. Supp. 1068, 1076 (S.D.N.Y. 1989).

*In re Timbers of Inwood Forest,* 484 U.S. 365, 375-76 (1988))).

*In re Thomas,* No. 14-11738 (MG), 2017 WL 123746, at \*2 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 5, 2017)

*In re Ehrenfeld,* 2020 WL 5758819, at \*3 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 28, 2020).

*Khan v. Citibank,* No. CV PX 16-3121, 2017 WL 2311185.

*In re Richmond,* 513 B.R. 34, 41 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 2014).

*In re Drexel Burnham Lambert Grp., Inc.,* 142 B.R. 633, 637 (S.D.N.Y. 1992).

*In re Mizuno,* 288 B.R. 45, 49–50 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 2002).

*In re Residential Cap., LLC,* 2015 WL 1281960, at \*3 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Mar. 18, 2015).

*In re Schick,* 234 B.R. 337, 343 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1999).

*In re First Cent. Fin. Corp.,* 377 F.3d 209, 212 (2d Cir. 2004).

*In re Grubb & Ellis Co.,* No. 12-10685 MG, 2012 WL 1036071, at \*6 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Mar. 27, 2012) (Glenn, J.), aff'd, 523 B.R. 423 (S.D.N.Y. 2014) .

*Simonds v. Simonds,* 380 N.E.2d 189, 194 (NY 1978).

*In re Enron Corp.,* 292 B.R. 752, 762 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2003).

*Orlander v. Staples, Inc.,* 802 F.3d 289, 294 (2d Cir. 2015)

*Johnson v. Nextel Commc'ns, Inc.,* 660 F.3d 131, 142 (2d Cir. 2011).

*Chesapeake Energy Corp. v. Bank of N.Y. Mellon Tr. Co., N.A.,* 773 F.3d 110, 114 (2d Cir. 2014).

*See Jacobson v. Sassower,* 66 N.Y.2d 991, 993 (1985).

*See Register.com,* 356 F.3d at 403.

*Maverick Tube Corp.,* 595 F.3d at 466.

*Greenfield*, 98 N.Y. 2d.

*Butko v. Ciccozzi*, 2021 WL 1608481.

*In re 48th St. Steakhouse, Inc.*, 835 F.2d 427, 430 (2d Cir. 1987).

*Hausler v. JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.*, 127 F. Supp. 3d 17, 37 (S.D.N.Y. 2015).

*See Purgess v. Sharrock*, 33 F.3d 134, 144 (2d Cir. 1994).

*Baldwin County Welcome Center v. Brown*.

*Rabin v. Dep't of State*.

*Haines v. Kerner*<sup>3</sup>, 404 U.S. 519, 521 (1972)

*Henry Platsky, Plaintiff-appellant, v. Central Intelligence Agency*.

*Conley v. Gibson*, 355 U.S. 41, 45, 46 (1957).

*Hoodho v. Holder*, 558 F.3d 184, 191 (2d Cir. 2009).

*United States v. Whiting Pools, Inc.*, 462 U.S. 198, 205 n.10 (1983)

*In re Flanagan*, 503 F.3d 171, 180 (2d Cir. 2007).

*In re Columbia Gas Systems, Inc.*, 997 F.2d 1039, 1059 (3d Cir. 1993)).

*In re Edison Bros., Inc.*, 243 B.R. 231, 235 (Bankr. D. Del. 2000) .

## **INTERPRETATION OF THIS ADVERSARY PROCEEDING**

As I am a *Pro Se* filer, and I do not understand the law as well as a lawyer would, I ask that you do as The Supreme Court Of The United States<sup>4</sup> said: “a *pro se* complaint, ‘however

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<sup>3</sup> The Debtors, in a reply to the appellants (in the district court) stated that I quoted Rabin, instead of Haines. I also hereby incorporate relevant quotes that support my request from Rabin.

<sup>4</sup> To be referred to as “SCOTUS” from henceforth.

inartful pleaded,' must be held to 'less stringent standards than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers' and can only be dismissed for failure to state a claim if it appears 'beyond doubt that the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of his claim which would entitle him to relief.' Id., at 520 521, quoting *Conley v. Gibson*, 355 U.S. 41,45 46 (1957)." Rule 8 provides that ““pleadings shall be so construed as to do substantial justice.” As SCOTUS stated: “We frequently have stated that *pro se* pleadings are to be given a liberal construction. *Baldwin County Welcome Center v. Brown.*”” SCOTUS also noted that *pro se* plaintiffs should be afforded "special solicitude." *Haines v. Kerner*<sup>5</sup>, 404 U.S. 519, 521 (1972) . Your Honor has the ability "liberally" construe my requests. I ask that if anything is in the wrong format, or cites the wrong federal code, etc, that Your Honor allows me to fix it, instead of dismissing this Adversary Proceeding. As SCOTUS said: “The district judge should have explain[ed] the correct form to the *pro se* plaintiff so that Owens could have amended his pleadings accordingly. Instead of simply dismissing the complaints for naming federal agencies as the defendants, it would have been appropriate for the district judge to explain the correct form to the *pro se* plaintiff so that Platsky could have amended his pleadings accordingly see *Henry Platsky, Plaintiff-appellant, v. Central Intelligence Agency*”. And as Your Honor noted previously, courts protect *pro se* plaintiff's from inadvertently giving up their rights. “See *Triestman v. Fed. Bureau of Prisons*, 470 F.3d 471, 475 (2d Cir. 2006) (citing *Traguth v. Zuck*, 710 F.2d 90, 95 (2d Cir.1983) (“This policy of liberally construing *pro se* submissions is driven by the understanding that “[i]mplicit in the right of self-representation is an obligation on the part of the court to make reasonable allowances to protect *pro se* litigants from inadvertent forfeiture of important rights because of their lack of legal training.”).”

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<sup>5</sup> The Debtors, in a reply to the appellants (in the district court) stated that I quoted Rabin, instead of Haines. I also hereby incorporate relevant quotes that support my request from Rabin.

## **COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT**

I, Fred M. Shanks, (“Mr. Shanks”, “I”, “Me” and “Plaintiff”), bring this complaint against the debtors<sup>6</sup> and debtors in possession (collectively, the “Debtors”, “They”, “Them”, “Celsius” and “Defendants”) in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the “Chapter 11 Cases”), and allege and state the following:

### **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

#### **(Declaratory Judgment Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 7001(9) That Certain Property is Not Property of the Estate)**

Mr. Shanks has filed this lawsuit for the declaratory relief set forth herein requesting that the Court find that his assets are **not** property of the Debtors’ estates, as defined under section 541 of the Bankruptcy Code.

Section 541(d) of the Bankruptcy Code provides, in relevant part:

“(d) Property in which the debtor holds, as of the commencement of the case, only legal title and not an equitable interest<sup>7</sup>. . . becomes property of the estate under subsection (a)(1) or (2)

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<sup>6</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number, are: Celsius Network LLC (2148); Celsius KeyFi LLC (4414); Celsius Lending LLC (8417); Celsius Mining LLC (1387); Celsius Network Inc. (1219); Celsius Network Limited (8554); Celsius Networks Lending LLC (3390); and Celsius US Holding LLC (7956). The location of Debtor Celsius Network LLC’s principal place of business and the Debtors’ service address in these chapter 11 cases is 121 River Street, PH05, Hoboken, New Jersey 07030.

<sup>7</sup> Emphasis added.

of this section only to the extent of the debtor's legal title to such property, but not to the extent of any equitable interest in such property that the debtor does not hold. 11 U.S.C. § 541(d)".

Mr. Shanks reserves any and all rights, including, but not limited to intervening in any part of case 22-10964 that he has an interest in, objection to items on agendas, etc.

Mr. Shanks repeats and realleges each of the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein. As well as in **Exhibit A: Fred M. Shanks's Declaration In Support of Fred M. Shanks's Adversary Proceeding.**

Nothing in the contract addresses/precludes or states what would happen if Mr. Shanks requested to pay off his loan with the established balance of crypto in his account(s) when there is/was a limitation/freeze of accounts. Nothing in the contract addressed anything (relevant<sup>8</sup>) about what would happen in the event of a breach of contract in this situation. Just like how (according to the Debtors) the contract does not address requirements for only utilizing external funds to pay off "Loan" accounts in the event of a freeze of accounts, it does not address a lot of things, it does however, address the right of offset. But the lack of it being specifically addressed for frozen accounts and not being able to utilize current established crypto funds to pay off the loans, does not suddenly mean that Celsius is able to do whatever they want. Like it stated via email about only utilizing external funds to pay for outstanding "loan" accounts: Logically, the average layman would not send additional funds, especially with limited income, when they have an abundance of available funds on the same platform and utilizing the right of offset (relevant<sup>8</sup>) to meet contractual requirements.

<sup>8</sup> "We hereby agree that, to the extent permitted by applicable law, in the event that Celsius breaches its obligation under these Terms, you may set off assets or amounts we owe you with respect to your Celsius Account, against your Obligations. If the law restricts your ability to take, transfer, or setoff our obligations to you, or if they are protected from attachment, levy, or legal process, we waive those conditions and limits to the full extent that we may do so by contract, and we authorize you to apply our obligations to you

to your Obligations." Fortunately, I did have additional assets in my existing accounts, so I was willing to utilize the rule of offset it to pay off the loan, for which the debtors refused to execute the requirement. Unfortunately, I did not have external funds to send or apply to the rule of off set to pay off the loan as I have limited income as a retired disabled Vet.

## **SUMMARY OF ACTION**

Celsius suddenly limited withdrawals/swaps and transfers on June 13th, 2022. It should be noted that they did not announce any form of a limitation on accounts utilizing current established assets to pay off loans or address margin calls. On June 14th, 2022, Mr. Shanks initiated multiple attempts to resolve the loan by contacting Celsius vice email and telephonically to address said issue For Loan #163201. Instead, they *ignored* Mr. Shanks, and responded that they cannot do that, because of their announcement in regards to the "Pause" on transfers/swaps between accounts, but later contradicted themselves by willing to transfer coins to cover the margin call itself however, was unwilling to work with him utilizing the rule of offset in regards to the loan, (even though Mr. Shanks gave specific instructions to them to utilize his "Earn" account transfer/swap between account(s) to pay off the loan, and the "Pause" had no mention of a restriction on paying off loan(s) from current account(s). Celsius **blatantly violated** the terms of the contract and decided to pick and choose what parts of the contract they want to apply, which is **not** how contracts, or contract law, works.

Such an *egregious material breach* of contract cannot be allowed to stand.

Based upon the clear and unambiguous contract terms (section 9. Setoff and Security Interest Rights), which allows(ed) Celsius to utilize my current assets to pay off loan(s) it too should have afforded me the right to utilize my account(s) to pay off the loan(s) and if choosing to do so to cover the margin call See exhibits (attached). for details see contact attached which exert clearly states "non-accredited investors can continue to swap, borrow, and transfer within their Custody accounts based on their local jurisdiction." For which Colorado was allowing such actions to occur so, I should have been afforded the same opportunity to pay off the loan

with the current assets in my earn account, as I was being allowed to utilize for transferring to cover the margin call. I instructed Celsius that I wished to pay off my loan account, therefor all assets should have transferred to my custody account after being allowed to transfer/swap for the appropriate form of currency to pay off the loan and then applied to the loan relinquishing the collateral which would have then been transferred back to the custody account. Due to the fact that Celsius refused to do so breached the contract and all title reverted back to me for both earn and custody accounts.

When Celsius **materially breached** the contract (on June 14th, 2022), *any and all* legal authority and **title** that Celsius had to hold onto my assets vanished. Mr. Shanks's contractual arrangement with Celsius was terminated, totally and completely, and assuming the contract was not breached, save *de minimis* survivability sections that are **unrelated and irrelevant** to the “Earn” contract.

*E. Borrow*

*You may apply to borrow certain Fiat currencies or Stablecoins from an Affiliate of Celsius, as will be agreed between you and Celsius or its Affiliates in writing, against Eligible Digital Assets in your Celsius Account (each, a “Loan”). If approved, such application shall be subject to a separate agreement to be entered into between you and the Celsius Affiliate (the “Loan Agreement”), and Celsius or its Affiliates shall hold the Digital Assets provided as collateral under the Loan Agreement for the benefit of the Lender subject to the terms hereof, including without limitation Sections 9, 10 and 13.*

*In no circumstances shall it be permissible for you to use the proceeds of such Loans to purchase additional Digital Assets through any third party fiat*

*“on-ramp” service providers that may be integrated in or connected with the Celsius platform from time to time, and you represent and warrant that you will not do so. Celsius further does not recommend or encourage any use of borrowed funds for purchasing Digital Assets or making any financial investment. You represent that any use by you of the proceeds of Loans shall be in full compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, these Terms, and the applicable Loan Agreement, and you shall be solely responsible and liable for any breach of any of the foregoing.*

*Any Eligible Digital Assets you provide as collateral under a Loan Agreement shall not be eligible for another Service provided by Celsius at the same time, including the Earn Service, as set out above, and by entering into any Loan Agreement you explicitly authorize Celsius to deduct the amount of Eligible Digital Assets corresponding to the collateral amount from the applicable Service in your Celsius Account.*

When Celsius filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy protection, they did **not** hold the **title** to any remaining assets in either the “Earn” “Custody” account based on a breach of contract. They relinquished all assets rights based on their failure to perform on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 per my

request to pay off the loan as the contract based on right of offset. While they did *however, sell the collateral assets off* themselves it was done without approval of the plaintiff being afforded the choice of how to manage MY assets and a direct breach of contract. The plaintiff provided explicit written direction in regards to the action needed to un-pause the plaintiff accounts to meet the performance requirement of paying off the borrowed loan, Celsius chose to ignore the plaintiff's direction which was in line with the written contract Celsius developed. Celsius opted to take actions into their own hands violating the plaintiffs' rights and sold off the plaintiffs assets, then 30 days latter paused all other loan requirements from having to be paid, which is in direct violation of their own terms of service.

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Under Bankruptcy 11 U.S. Code § 541(d), Mr. Shanks's Celsius deposits are **not** a part of the bankruptcy estate. Mr. Shanks is simply requesting a declaratory judgment that his coins belong to him, as they have since the day of Celsius refusal to perform based on the contract the defendants wrote in allowing him to utilize the swap and transfer process as was allowed by "non-accredited investors can continue to swap, borrow, and transfer within their Custody accounts based on their local jurisdiction." in paying of his loan with his earn account, and a return of his assets or, alternatively, the return of the value of his assets that the estate holds. This courts Earn Order<sup>9</sup> (which does not apply to Mr. Shanks since there is a clear case of a breach of contract for failure to perform) converts his 541(d) ownership claim, into a unsecured claim for damages, which tramples on his rights by making what should **not** be property of the estate, property of the estate.

When the contract was **materially breached**, Mr. Shanks's and the Debtors' contractual relationship ended, and the Debtors did **not** gain Chapter 11 bankruptcy protections until after the breach of contract. The assets were not contractually a part of the estate, or property of Celsius,

as of the petition date.

The Earn Order cannot constitute a ruling on whether Mr. Shanks's coins are property of the Debtors estates. My claim form is *presumptively* correct; Debtors first have the burden to prove that they **did not** fail to perform and did not cause damages by selling off Mr. Shanks's collateral asset coins for which they charged him a 3% administrative fees which would not have occurred if the defendant had performed base on their written contract. Then, at most, only after the Debtor meets their burden, there is a "rebuttable presumption" that the coins are property of the Estates; a presumption which I will seek to rebut.

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<sup>9</sup> (The "Earn Order")

A ruling going any further than this based on the Earn order would go beyond the relief requested by the Debtors.<sup>10</sup> It is both outside the scope of the Motion they filed, *and* would have been **required** to be brought as an Adversary Proceeding. One reason that the Earn order is being appealed is that it appears that it is being treated in these cases as if it is a final order with the weight of a Declaratory Judgement issued from an Adversary Proceeding to dismiss ownership claims and relegate what would be ownership claims to the claims resolution process, **but without any of the statutory protections** afforded with an Adversary Proceeding. The Earn Decision, however, was **not** an Adversary Proceeding as required under FRBP 7001 for a final declaratory judgment that reflects an "interest in property."

The court<sup>11</sup> should order the Debtor/bankruptcy estate to transfer Mr. Shanks the USD<sup>14</sup> value of the assets (plus interest and other gains) at the time the check is written and be paid out to Mr. Shanks, alternatively, if this court finds that Mr. Shanks's property was subject to conversion, he requests that the Debtors either return the USD value at the time of conversion, or the coins in kind (whichever is greater). Additionally, another 5% premium should be paid out

due to the volatility of cryptocurrencies and to account for fees associated with repurchasing the cryptocurrencies. The court could also simply declare Mr. Shanks's assets not property of the estate and release them to him at a later date (along with other interest<sup>15</sup>/airdrops that the assets have generated since June 15th, 2022), along with compensation for all additional damages dealt to Mr. Shanks, including, but not limited to, expenses such as filing fees, transportation, etc. less any "interest," "yield," or "earnings" that were added on June 16th, 2022 (since the contract was materially breached beforehand, causing the Debtor to lose title<sup>16</sup> to the assets.)

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<sup>10</sup> The Debtors stated in the *Debtors' Amended Motion for Entry of an Order (I) Establishing Ownership of Assets in the Debtors' Earn Program, (II) Permitting the Sale of Stablecoin in the Ordinary Course and (III) Granting Related Relief* stated that the "the narrowed findings and requested relief do not require a final determination of property rights." Now, they are trying to use it as "law of the case" to dismiss the Adversary Proceeding.

The Debtors are also unable to claim that they did not transfer the funds to pay off the loan to avoid a *potential* preferential transfer claim, because preferential transfers do not apply to Mr. Shanks.

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<sup>11</sup> For more information see Request For Relief.

<sup>12</sup> Assuming that an in kind payment is not possible.

<sup>13</sup> Such as the interest made from staking. I am not asking for the rates that Celsius paid. I am asking for whatever I could have earned on those assets, if Celsius did not illegally deny me possession of my own property.

<sup>14</sup> Assuming they had title, which still has not been conclusively determined. All rights reserved.

## **THE PARTIES**

1. The Plaintiff is Fred M. Shanks represented by himself.
2. The Defendants are the Debtors in the above-captioned Chapter 11 Cases, they are represented by *Kirkland and Ellis*. The Debtors' names and addresses are set forth in their voluntary petitions filed with this Court. The corporate organization of the Debtors<sup>18</sup>, as well as their jurisdictions of formation, are set forth in Exhibit A to the *Declaration of Alex Mashinsky, Chief Executive Officer<sup>19</sup> of Celsius Network LLC, In Support of Chapter 11 Petitions and First Day Motions*, filed on July 14, 2022 [Docket No. 23] (the “First Day Declaration”).

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. This adversary proceeding arises in and relates to the Chapter 11 Cases pending before the U.S. Bankruptcy Court<sup>20</sup> for the Southern District of New York (the “Court”) under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”).

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<sup>18</sup>The GK8 Debtors/all GK8 entities are also defendants, I did not include them in the header/summons since I do not believe that doing so would be proper, as they have a separate bankruptcy. Please interpret this as is proper.

2. The Court *purportedly* has jurisdiction over this adversary proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. The adversary proceeding is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(b)(2)(A), (G<sup>21</sup>) and (O).
3. Venue is *allegedly* proper<sup>22</sup> pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.
4. The statutory predicates for the relief requested herein are sections 105(a) and 541 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules 7001(1) and 7001(9).

**Account Closure Was Undisputed as applied to the loan**

Oren Blonstein, in his deposition clearly laid out the requirements for closing an account, Mr. Fishberg asked “Q<sup>23</sup>: “Does that, in your opinion, state that [to] e-mail Celsius support is sufficient to terminate your account?”. Mr. Blonstein literally said: “A: I mean, the first sentence says, “If you want to terminate your Celsius account with Celsius, you may do so by notifying

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<sup>21</sup> This is only included if it is necessary to do so.

<sup>22</sup> *Supposedly* proper, it does not seem proper to me since they were in fact banned from operating in New York State. Although the issue is not being raised at this time, it **does not appear** that the Debtors' assertion (and basically everyone's) that venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. §§1408 and 1409 is correct since Celsius' principal place of business is located in Hoboken, New Jersey (Motion, at ¶ 3); and all of the Debtors are Delaware entities (see *Voluntary Petition of Celsius US Holding LLC*, Case 22-10971, ECF Doc. #1, Exhibit “A” (p. 19) which is identifying that each of the seven Debtors are Delaware entities).

Celsius at support@celsius.network.”” After Mr. Fishberg followed up with “Q: Correct. Is that what is required to terminate your account?” Mr. Blonstein clearly and unambiguously replied with: “A: That's what -- I mean, that's what that sentence says, yes.” To avoid any potential for ambiguity Mr. Fishberg followed up once again: “So that is what is required to terminate your account, correct; yes or no?” Mr. Blonstein agreed that all that is required to close an account, and terminate the account, is to email Celsius: “A: I'm reading the same thing that you are referring to. That's what it says, yes. I agree.” To prevent the Debtors from ever being able to argue that Mr. Fishberg did not have the right to close his account, Mr. Fishberg followed up with: “Q: Okay. So it does say, yes, to terminate your account you have to e-mail Celsius, support@celsius.network, correct?” Mr. Blonstein confirmed with *finality* “That is what it says, yes.” It is also written through the Celsius contract that the main source of contact with Celsius is accomplished through email. As was the actions that were taken in regards to closing the Borrowed loan account by the plaintiff.

### **Automatic Stay**

Mr. Shanks recognizes that even bare possession, in *some* circumstances, *may* trigger the automatic stay under section 362(a) of the Bankruptcy Code. *In re 48th St. Steakhouse, Inc.*, 835 F.2d 427, 430 (2d Cir. 1987); however in *Butko v. Ciccozzi*, 2021 WL 1608481, at \*10 & n.6 (W.D. Pa. Apr. 26, 2021) (compiling cases finding that **some colorable legal right**, in *addition* to bare possession, is **required** in order to obtain the benefit of the automatic stay<sup>24</sup>). Even if the automatic stay is invoked by Celsius’ mere possession of Mr. Shanks’s coins, relief from the stay, is warranted under sections 362(d)(1) and 362(d)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code, and the court **SHOULD LIFT THE STAY**, at least on a partial basis (only if necessary).

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24 Emphasis added

### **Judicial Admissions**

Statements made in this case are binding on Celsius as judicial admissions. Judicial admissions “are formal concessions in the **pleadings in the case** . . . that have the effect of withdrawing a fact from issue and dispensing wholly with the need for proof of the fact.” *Hoodho v. Holder*, 558 F.3d 184, 191 (2d Cir. 2009)<sup>25</sup>. Statements other than pleadings, **including those made by attorneys in briefs**<sup>26</sup>, also bind the client as judicial admissions. *See Purgess v. Sharrock*, 33 F.3d 134, 144 (2d Cir. 1994). “When a party makes a judicial admission, that party ‘normally is bound [by that admission] **throughout the course of the proceeding.**’” *Hausler v. JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.*, 127 F. Supp. 3d 17, 37 (S.D.N.Y. 2015) (alteration in original; citation omitted).

### **Preliminary Statement**

Mr. Shanks wants to clarify the following:

1. Mr. Shanks is not an “investor<sup>27</sup>” in Celsius. He invested *into* cryptocurrencies which he then *deposited* to Celsius. He is a *depositor, not an investor*. The Debtors have made representations in court that depositors such as Mr. Shanks knew the risks when they signed the contract, that is blatantly false.
2. Mr. Shanks is not a stakeholder<sup>28</sup> in Celsius; he is currently classified as a creditor.
3. The Debtors also had no contractual authority to hold onto my assets (after the termination of the Terms of Use) by refusing to allow me to use my “Earn” account to pay off my loan and then liquidating my collateral at a significant loss and charging an administrative fee of 3%.:
4. Based on email traffic the defendant created a situation of putting the plaintiff under duress of impossibility and/or economic duress to resolve the loan by demanding that the only course of action was to fund the Custody account, by transferring new coins in from an external address or a wire transfer, to pay off the loan, which is counter intuitive when you have

over 100k already in place and being constantly informed that, and I quote “Currently, withdrawals, swaps, and transfers between accounts have been stopped.” Then how can you take any course of action to resolve an issue and why would you even attempt to send more funds when you already have the funds in place? And the possibility of any funds that you attempted to transfer in from an external source is perceived in the plaintiff’s eyes as being at risk of being locked up in the custody account and not allowed to be transferred based on the defendant’s constant canned response. The defendant clearly lost credibility and trust by the plaintiff based on their actions and constant avoidance of problem resolution as well as a clear breach of contract.

5. While 30 days later pausing all other customers from having to meet the loan balance due. thereby the Debtors **material breach of contract** caused **Mr. Shanks significant harm, meeting the 4th and final criteria of what constitutes a breach of contract under New York State law.**

6. Celsius’s refusal to utilize the “Earn” account constituted a clear **material breach** of contract. Celsius’s refusal has significantly harmed Mr. Shanks and caused him to take significant amounts of time to reclaim his assets through this court. Celsius’s actions have also caused Mr. Shanks undue stress and anxiety.

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<sup>25</sup> Mr. Shanks would like to thank Custody and Withhold for their amazing case law/some arguments, all the credit of those arguments goes to them.

<sup>26</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>27</sup> <https://cases.stretto.com/public/x191/11749/PLEADINGS/117490825228000000049.pdf>  
“Like Shanks’s, these complaints allege claims based on customers’ inability to withdraw their investments following the Pause.”

<sup>28</sup> <https://cases.stretto.com/public/x191/11749/PLEADINGS/1174909012280000000126.pdf>  
Was referred to as a “stakeholder” in this order.

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<sup>29</sup> The contract is what matters (assuming it is enforceable/not void, all rights reserved). The Debtors claim that “Custody” is entitled to a return of 100% of their assets, since that is what the contract says, despite the fact that at the time of the Pause, ~64% of assets owed to “Custody” were in the “Custody” wallet. And as of the petition (according to the Debtors/UCC), ~94% of the assets owed to “Custody” were in the “Custody”

wallet, and yet the Debtors contend that since the contract says that "Custody" is entitled to a full return of assets, despite the fact that there was a partial commingling, is a judicial admission by the Debtors that the contract takes precedence over what actually occurred (according to them anyways). Mr. Shanks does not at this time take a position on "Custody", and whether it is valid, and will operate under the assumption that it is, but he reserves all rights, including changing his position at any time.

<sup>30</sup> Some "Survival" terms in Section 35 are would still be in effect after the termination of the contract (assuming it was not breached, like it was),

1. Mr. Shanks attempted to mitigate<sup>31</sup> the damages from Celsius's material breach of contract by contacting them numerous times before and dozens of times after the bankruptcy filing, including corresponding with the Debtors' legal counsel/support team.

2. The "Pause" **does not apply** to Mr. Shanks, since the request to close the borrowed account caused "the termination of these [in reference to the TOU] Terms". Celsius did not have, nor do they currently have, any legal or factual argument to refuse Mr. Shanks access to his own property.

Mr. Shanks would like to clarify something else. He is seeking a Declaratory Judgment that the coins are not property of the estate under 11 U.S.C. § 541, and compensation<sup>32</sup> for the damages Celsius/the Debtors have caused to him. He is not seeking an unsecured claim for a

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<sup>31</sup> *M. Golodetz Exp. Corp. v. S/S Lake Anja*, 751 F.2d 1103, 1112 (2d Cir. 1985) ("The venerable rule that requires a plaintiff to mitigate his damages has been explained by the principle that 'damages which the plaintiff might have avoided with reasonable effort ... are ... not caused by the defendant's wrong ... and, therefore, are not to be charged against him'."') (quoting 2 Williston on Contracts § 1353 at 274 (1962)).

<sup>32</sup> See Request For Relief for more information.

breach of contract, as that is not proper, that would take assets that should have not been property of the estate, and in effect turn them into property of the estate. *If* it is necessary, the automatic stay can be lifted for this narrow purpose. Mr. Shanks also is not, as the Debtors have attempted to make seem, seeking any punitive damages.

Mr. Shanks would like to state, for the record, that his claim is not a core matter. This Adversary Proceeding *should* be tried in the District court (if he requests it) with a jury trial<sup>33</sup>, and that he reserves the right to not consent to the judgment of this court<sup>34</sup>, and does not consent to this court issuing a final ruling on any non-core matters, and this complaint should **not** be dismissed via summary judgment or otherwise without a hearing on his individual case, because Mr. Shanks's claims have merit and should be heard.

## **The Material Breach Of Contract**

### **The Contract Was Clear and Unambiguous About loan payments**

The court should rule that the Terms Of Use clearly and **unambiguously** stated that Mr. Shanks had the right to transfer/swap assets to cover loan closers utilizing his account, and as soon as it was closed, all of the terms of the contract, with the exception of some irrelevant "Survival" terms, terminated. If the contract is found to be **unambiguous**, it **must** be interpreted in Mr. Shanks's favor, because the contract *clearly* states that he has the right to close his loan account at any time by simply emailing Celsius or utilizing the app by transferring/swaping like coins to pay off the loan

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<sup>34</sup> "This court" refers to the Bankruptcy court that this case is currently pending before.

(which he did on a previous loan). Mr. Blonstein also agreed that Mr. Shanks had a right to close per deposition with Mr. Fishberg, and that it terminated the Terms of Use after he attempted to close his loan account when Celsius refused to allow the use of his “Earn” Account assets.

Nothing in the contract mentioned any (relevant) limitations on loan account closures, specifically in the section<sup>35</sup> about account closures, it *clearly* and **unambiguously** states that the TOU terminates when the account is closed. The **only** requirement to close the account **that is listed in the contract** is for Mr. Shanks to email them and pay off the outstanding balance (which he attempted to do on numerous times, and also called them). As the Debtors love to say<sup>36</sup> “When a contract’s terms are **unambiguous**, courts **must** apply them as written. *In re Enron Corp.*, 292 B.R. 752, 762 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2003) (“If the contract language is ‘unambiguous,’ this Court must enforce the plain, ordinary, and common meaning of those terms as a matter of law without reference to extrinsic evidence.”).” Since there is no written limitation on account closures, “this court must enforce” the contract as written. As stated<sup>37</sup> by the Custody Ad Hoc: “A contract is **unambiguous** “*if* the language it uses has a ‘**definite and precise meaning, unattended by danger of misconception** in the purport of the [agreement] itself, and concerning which there is **no reasonable** basis for a difference of opinion.” *Greenfield*, 98 N.Y. 2d<sup>38</sup>.

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<sup>35</sup> “B. Your Right to Close Your Celsius Account

**If you want to terminate your Celsius Account with Celsius, you may do so by notifying Celsius at support@celsius.network.** Once your Celsius Account is closed, you agree: (a) to continue to be bound by these Terms, as required by Section 35 below (Survival) (b) to immediately stop using the Services, (c) that we reserve the right (but have no obligation) to delete all of your information and Celsius Account data stored on our servers, and (d) that we shall not be liable to you or any third party for termination of access to the Services or for deletion of your information or Celsius Account data. You acknowledge that any legal obligations you may have under any other agreement with Celsius or its Affiliates (including any Loan Agreement or agreement governing lending or investing in Celsius or its Affiliates) will not be affected in any way by the termination of these Terms and any such *other* agreement between you and Celsius will continue to be in effect in accordance with its terms.” (Emphasis added)

<sup>36</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>37</sup> Stretto Doc 1292 Filed by Togut, Segal & Segal pgs 16 & 17, emphasis added.

<sup>38</sup> at 569 (citations omitted).

**If the Contract (including the sections around account closure) is Ambiguous, It**

**Must Be Construed in Mr. Shanks's Favor**

In the case, if the contract *is ambiguous*, it **must** also be interpreted in *Mr. Shanks's* favor (since it clearly states in Section 19, subsection B, that one can close their account simply by emailing Celsius), as New York courts construe issues of ambiguity **against** the **drafting party**—here, the Debtors. *Jacobson v. Sassower*, 66 N.Y.2d 991, 993 (1985) (“**In cases of doubt or ambiguity**, a contract **must** be construed most **strongly against** the **party** who **prepared it, and favorably to a party** who had **no voice in the selection of its language**<sup>39</sup>.”). The reason for this rule is that the party who is drafting the contract is presumably weighing the contract in its favor, and *heavily*.

As also stated<sup>40</sup> by the Custody Ad Hoc: *Maverick Tube Corp.*, 595 F.3d at 466: “An **ambiguity** exists where the terms of the contract *could* suggest **more than one** meaning when viewed objectively by a reasonably intelligent person who has examined the context of the entire integrated agreement and who is cognizant of the customs, practices, usages and terminology as generally understood in the particular trade or business<sup>41</sup>.”

Thus, “if the agreement on its face is *reasonably* susceptible of only one meaning, a court is **not** free to alter the contract to **reflect its personal notions of fairness and equity**” *Greenfield*, 98 N.Y. 2d<sup>42</sup>. Since New York courts construe issues of ambiguity against the **drafting party**—here, the Debtors. *Jacobson v. Sassower*, 66 N.Y.2d 991, 993 (1985) (“**In cases of doubt or**

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<sup>39</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>40</sup> Stretto Doc 1292 Filed by Togut, Segal & Segal pgs 16 & 17, emphasis added.

<sup>41</sup> (internal quotation marks and citations omitted)

<sup>42</sup> At 569-70. (citations omitted). Emphasis added.

**ambiguity**, a contract **must** be construed most strongly *against* the party who prepared it, and favorably to a party who had **no voice in the selection of its language**<sup>43.”</sup>).

The reason for this rule is that the party who is drafting the contract is *presumably* weighing the contract in its favor, and heavily. The Debtors are likely going to argue (as they have in the past) that the limitation on withdrawals allowed them to refuse to close my account, but that argument in itself is **ambiguous** since nowhere in the contract did it say that the closure of my account could be prevented due to a limitation on withdrawal. The matter of fact is that the Debtor's oral argument at my Lift Stay Motion hearing on September 1st, 2022 was filled with **ambiguity**.

It could be (wrongly) interpreted that the Debtor's ability to restrict transfers/swaps also allows them the power to prevent me from closing my loan account (but that argument is lacking in any form of support within the four corners of the contract, which clearly states that only a few *de minimis* sections of the contract survive, post account-closure request), as stated in *Maverick Tube Corp.*, 595 F.3d at 466: “An **ambiguity** exists where the terms of the contract could suggest **more than one** meaning.”

The matter of fact is that a consumer of reasonable intelligence can interpret the contract in numerous ways as, in numerous sections, it refers to the coins deposited to Celsius as “yours”

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<sup>43</sup> Emphasis added.

and states<sup>44</sup> that: “You may terminate any loan<sup>45</sup> to Celsius **at any time**, and request that Celsius return the borrowed Eligible Digital Assets and deliver any Rewards accrued from the Earn Service, by transferring such Eligible Digital Assets and Rewards to your external Virtual Wallet.” Section 19, Subsection B states that all that is required to close an account is to email Celsius’s customer support, which Mr. Shanks did. As such, it was interpreted by him (and Mr. Blonstein) as allowing him to close his account at any time, as is the industry standard. It also states<sup>46</sup>: “You will **lend your** Eligible Digital Assets to Celsius and grant Celsius **all rights and title** to such Digital Assets, for Celsius to use in its sole discretion while using the Earn Service.” How can someone both lend *and* give/transfer/gift (which is a taxable event) something at the same time? The contract is full of **ambiguity**.

To quote the Debtors<sup>47</sup>: “Modern contracts often involve a fundamentally different process, where consumers’ participation is limited to deciding if they will, in fact, participate. See *Register.com*, 356 F.3d at 403.” The Debtors effectively stated that the contract was weighted in their favor, as Mr. Shanks had no ability to negotiate. As the Debtors said: “Traditionally, mutual assent was conceptualized as the culmination of a bargaining process, with an emphasis on both parties’ intent to be bound following an active negotiation of terms.” To once again quote the Debtors<sup>48</sup>: “The exemplary contract is one between parties of relatively equal bargaining power, and achieved through a negotiation process that reflects this power balance.) (citing E. Allan Farnsworth, Contracts § 4.26 (4th ed. 2004)).” Quite clearly that did **not** happen

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<sup>44</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>45</sup> Mr. Shanks still maintains that the Terms of Service overall are ambiguous, and the matter is pending appeal. If the Earn Order is upheld at all of the various levels of the appeals process, then Mr. Shanks reserves the right to amend

<sup>46</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>47</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>48</sup> <https://cases.stretto.com/public/x191/11749/PLEADINGS/117491111228000000043.pdf>

here (as a *take it or leave it* deal, between an individual and a multi-billion dollar corporation is about as unequal as you can get), so the contract **must** be construed most favorably to *Mr. Shanks*, who had *no* say in writing the contract or *any* ability to negotiate, and most strongly *against* the *Debtors*, who wrote it. *See Jacobson v. Sassower*, 66 N.Y.2d 991, 993 (1985) (“**[I]n cases of doubt or ambiguity**, a contract **must** be construed most strongly *against* the party who prepared it, and **favorably to a party** who had **no voice in the selection of its language**<sup>49</sup>.”) It is not *Mr. Shanks*’s fault that Celsius’s contract is self-contradictory and doesn’t cover some issues like account closures after they stop withdrawals; it is *their* fault, as they are the ones who wrote it. The *Debtors* even stated in their court filing that “each iteration of the Terms of Use was an **at-will contract**,” which suggests that *Mr. Shanks* has the right to close his account per the contract at any time.

The contract is packed full of various conflicting, **ambiguous** sections and as such, it **must** be interpreted in *Mr. Shanks*’s favor. This court **must** rule that his earn assets should have been utilized to meet the loan requirement and the collateral transferred to back to “**Custody account**”, as *Mr. Shanks* requested, as the contract allows (if it was not breached) and if it was breached, it should have been withdrawn to an external wallet due to Celsius lacking any authority to hold onto his assets, and since this was request pre-petition, it should have occurred. Under New York law, a contract is **ambiguous** if its terms *could suggest* more than one meaning when viewed objectively by a *reasonably* intelligent person who has examined the context of the entire integrated agreement and who is cognizant of the customs, practices, usages and terminology as generally understood in the particular trade or business. *Chesapeake Energy Corp. v. Bank of N.Y. Mellon Tr. Co.*, N.A., 773 F.3d 110, 114 (2d Cir. 2014);

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<sup>49</sup> Emphasis added.

### **General Ambiguity**

Even without needing extrinsic evidence, it is crystal clear that one's interpretation of the Terms of Use can be very different from another's. This is corroborated by what Mr. Blonstein, Celsius's Chief Compliance Officer, said about the Terms of Service for earn and loans in his first deposition (pages 289, 290, 354, 359<sup>50</sup>):

- “I can understand your other reading of this”
- “[J]ust as a layperson, I would agree with your conclusion.” The vast majority of Celsius's customers were “layperson[s]”, they were unaccredited investors.
- “I don't know why it was written this way.”
- “I agree, reading that, it says what you're say – it says what you're saying, so, you know.” This was in reference to the title staying with the account holder at all times.

Thus, it is very clear that the Terms of Service have multiple interpretations. This is even further amplified, as Celsius' own Chief Compliance Officer understands and shares the view that more than one conclusion from the reading can be extracted. This, once again, demonstrates that the Terms of Use clearly *cannot* be found as **unambiguous**.

### **The Terms of Use are Potentially Both Procedurally and Substantively**

#### **Unconscionable**

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<sup>50</sup> And page 15 of  
<https://cases.stretto.com/public/x191/11749/PLEADINGS/117491201228000000089.pdf>

“The doctrine of **unconscionability** seeks to prevent sophisticated parties with grossly unequal bargaining power from taking advantage of less sophisticated parties<sup>51</sup>.” *Spinelli v. NFL*, 903 F.3d 185, 208 (2d Cir. 2018) (quoting *United States v. Martinez*, 151 F.3d 68, 74 (2d Cir. 1998) (internal quotation marks omitted)). Under New York law, a contract provision may be deemed unenforceable on unconscionability grounds only where it is both procedurally and substantively unconscionable when made. *Chen-Oster v. Goldman, Sachs & Co*<sup>52</sup>: “A contract or clause is unconscionable **when there is an absence of meaningful choice on the part of one of the parties together with contract terms which are unreasonably favorable to the other party.**” *Spinelli*<sup>53</sup> The procedural element of unconscionability requires an examination of the contract formation process and the alleged **lack of meaningful choice**. The focus is on such matters as the size and commercial setting of the transaction, whether deceptive or high-pressure tactics were employed, the use of fine print in the contract, the **experience and education of the party claiming unconscionability**, and whether there was **disparity in bargaining power**. *Am. Family Life Assurance Co. of N.Y. v. Baker*<sup>54</sup>, (citing *Gillman v. Chase Manhattan Bank*)<sup>55</sup>. The Debtors reliance on certain case law involving the enforceability of “click-wrap” agreements is misplaced and distinguishable under the circumstances. Mr. Shanks is not aware of any case in which one party claimed to take title to billions of dollars of assets (in the course of the use of the contract) by virtue of a simple “clickwrap” agreement. Frankly, that would be unprecedented. To the extent that it is determined that “contracts” were formed between the parties, the one-sided “take it or leave it” contract formation process and lack of any meaningful choice by

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<sup>51</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>52</sup> 449 F. Supp. 3d 216, 226 (S.D.N.Y. 2020). (Emphasis added)

<sup>53</sup> 903 F.3d at 208 (first quoting *Ragone v. Atl. Video at Manhattan Ctr.*, 595 F.3d 115, 122 (2d Cir. 2010); then quoting *Nayal v. HIP Network Servs. IPA, Inc.*, 620 F.Supp.2d 566, 571 (S.D.N.Y.2009)).

<sup>54</sup> 778 F. App'x 24, 26 (2d Cir. 2019)

<sup>55</sup> N.A., 73 N.Y.2d 1, 534 N.E.2d 824, 828, 537 N.Y.S.2d 787 (N.Y. 1988) (internal citations omitted).

users indicate procedural unconscionability. When coupled with the lofty promises and representations made by the Debtors outside of the Terms of Use (in public forums like the weekly AMA's), whereby users<sup>56</sup> were essentially lulled into a false sense of security, the unconscionability of the process becomes even more apparent. Courts assessing the substantive unconscionability of an agreement consider "whether one or more key terms are unreasonably favorable to one party." *See Baker*<sup>57</sup>: "[A]n unconscionable contract is one which is so grossly unreasonable or unconscionable in the light of the mores and business practices of the time and place as to be unenforceable according to its literal terms." Substantive unconscionability is indicated by contract terms so one-sided as to shock the conscience. *Homesite Ins. Co. v. Brezniak*<sup>58</sup>. Alternatively, substantive unconscionability consists of an allocation of risks or costs which is overly harsh or one-sided and is not justified by the circumstances in which the contract was made. If the Terms of Use are interpreted to mean what the Debtors claim them to mean, then they constitute the epitome of substantive unconscionability. There is no question that such an interpretation of the Terms of Use would result in the terms being unreasonably favorable to one party (the Debtors) and an allocation of risk or costs that is completely one-sided (again favoring the Debtors to the complete detriment of the users, such as Mr. Shanks). In simple terms, the idea that a person (usually unaccredited persons) would give hundreds of thousands of dollars (or millions, in certain cases) of assets to the Debtors in exchange for a "fee" and subject their assets to complete loss at any time is **patently unconscionable**.

## Argument

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<sup>56</sup> The term "users" is used for simplicity's sake. Mr. Shanks is only arguing on his own behalf.

<sup>57</sup> 778 F. App'x at 27 (quoting *Sablosky v. Edward S. Gordon Co.*, 535 N.E.2d 643, 647 (N.Y. 1989)) (internal quotation marks and alterations omitted)

<sup>58</sup> 581 F. Supp. 3d 424, 427 (D. Conn. 2022)

As the Debtors stated<sup>59</sup>: “A contract requires an offer, acceptance, consideration<sup>60</sup>, mutual asset, and an intent to be bound. See *Nowak v. JPMorgan Chase & Co.*, 847 Fed.Appx. 31, 34 (2d Cir. 2021), also see *Register.com, Inc. v. Verio, Inc.*, 356 F.3d 393, 427 (2d Cir. 2004).

Typically,<sup>61</sup> the Debtors would be right, as the contract would be a binding contract (including the section that allows a user to close their account at any time), but they **materially breached** it.

Mr. Shanks *quite* clearly made his lack of “intent to be bound” (to put it mildly) known to Celsius, and later the Debtors, dozens of times, *he also voided* the contract prepetition. In Mr. Ferraro’s deposition (after being asked: “What would be required for the contract to terminate or not to take effect?<sup>62</sup>”), he said: “They needed to talk to somebody in customer care. But upon that conversation, if they did not want to accept the terms and use, they could withdraw their coins from the platform<sup>63</sup>.” In my case paying off my loan. As the contract clearly states in Section

19, Mr. Shanks should have been afforded the right but was denied the ability to close his loan account at any time by simply requesting it. However, the Debtors who refused, which was/is a **material breach** of contract, and since it occurred before the petition date, that made all of his assets not a part of the estate under Section 541. Speaking of the **material breach** of contract, as the Debtors stated: “It is irrelevant whether customers actually read or were aware of the specific contents of the contract, so long as the terms were “clear and conspicuous<sup>64</sup>.” Mr. Shanks would argue that the same theory applies to Celsius’s

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<sup>59</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>60</sup> The criteria of consideration, arguably was not met, specifically with the most recent Terms of Use version that Mr. Shanks purportedly signed, since Mr. Shanks did not gain anything from it, he only gave up rights, and continued to use the service. All rights reserved.

<sup>61</sup> Mr. Shanks reserves all rights, and is not stating that the contract is/was a binding one.

<sup>64</sup> See *Valely v. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc.*, 464 F. Supp.3d 634, 640 (S.D.N.Y. 2020) (“Even if there is no evidence that the offeree had actual notice of the terms of the agreement, the offeree will still be bound by the agreement if a reasonably prudent user would be on inquiry notice of the terms.”)

representative/customer support staff's **material breach** of the contract. As the Debtors said, "it is irrelevant whether" Celsius and its representatives "actually read or were aware of the specific contents of the contract" because they still breached them. Just like not knowing something is a crime does not make it legal, not knowing what is in the contract is **not** a valid defense for **materially breaching** it. Also, Mr. Shanks pointed to specific sections in the contract in my communication with Celsius when saying that he does have a right to close it at any time, so Celsius cannot claim that they were unaware of the contents of their own contract, since it was pointed out to their support staff. Mr. Shanks also informed Celsius that the contract was voided due to their material breach of contract.

Mr. Shanks instructed Celsius to close his "loan" account as is his **right** under section **19. B.** of the TOS<sup>65</sup>. Mr. Shanks alleges that he has the **right** to close his account by simply telling Celsius to do so (which was done on the 15th of June, 2022, among other dates): "If you want to terminate your Celsius Account with Celsius, you may do so by notifying Celsius at support@celsius.network"<sup>66</sup>.

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<sup>65</sup> <https://celsius.network/terms-of-use>

<sup>66</sup> <https://celsius.network/terms-of-use>

## I. Further Ambiguity

Even if the Debtors *somehow* did not breach the contract (which they most certainly did) with Mr. Shanks when he requested to close his borrowed loan account and they (contrary to what is unambiguously<sup>113</sup> written in the contract) refused to do so by refusing to allow him to utilize his assets in his earn account, then the contract was clearly

<sup>112</sup> Mr. Blonstein deposition page 461-462.

<sup>113</sup> To quote what seems to be a favorite saying of the Debtors: “*In re Enron Corp.*, 292 B.R. 752, 762 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2003) (“If the contract language is ‘unambiguous,’ this Court must enforce the plain,

breached when the Debtors sold off his collateral

## **II. Regulators's Statements**

Mr. Blonstein conceded in his deposition (pg. 275-78) that there was no effort made to ascertain whether customers actually understood the Terms of Use. Mr. Shanks cannot speak for other customers, but he did not fully understand the Terms of Use until July or so of 2022, after reading it dozens of times. He still does not, nor does he *ever* think he will understand the TOU in the way that the Debtors are presenting it to this court in their motion which is attempting to claim “Earn” account assets as property of the estate. When Mr. Shanks read the updated TOU, it seemed to him that the assets remained his, and he could withdraw them at any time he wished – **not** that he was somehow giving all of his assets to Celsius in exchange for interest that they also somehow owned.

Numerous states<sup>119</sup> have said as much: “First, the language of the Terms of Use provisions has evolved over time and it would be a monumental task to evaluate whether each customer actually read and understood those terms even if they clicked on them in order to access their accounts”. Mr. Blonstein, who is Celsius’s Chief Compliance Officer, himself admitted that he did not read the entire contract (when he said that he never got down to Section 35, “survival”).

The Coordinating States<sup>120</sup> said that as regulatory scrutiny intensified, the Debtors tried to: “Write more protections for themselves into the language of those Terms of Use – and the nature of those changes and added protections were not necessarily clearly brought to the

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<sup>119</sup> <https://cases.stretto.com/public/x191/11749/PLEADINGS/1174911292280000000138.pdf>

<sup>120</sup> The terms "Regulators" and "Coordinating States" are used interchangeably.

attention of the lay customers or their significance emphasized<sup>121</sup>.” The coordinating states are correct: these changes were not brought to Mr. Shanks’s attention. The only changes of the TOU that were disclosed to him by Celsius were<sup>122</sup>:

**“Here’s how these changes impact you:**

- **All coins transferred to Celsius by users in the United States prior to April 15, 2022 will continue to earn rewards. Those existing coins will continue to earn rewards from April 15th and onward, for as long as they remain in their Earn accounts.**
- **On April 15, 2022, Celsius will be launching a new Custody solution for users in the United States.** Your Custody account will serve as the centerpiece of your home for crypto, providing a secure way to navigate across Celsius’ products, including store, access, borrow, spend, earn and grow.
- **New transfers made by non-accredited investors in the United States will be held in their new Custody accounts and will not earn rewards.** Non-accredited investors can continue to swap, borrow, and transfer within their Custody accounts based on their local jurisdiction.”

**Nowhere in the notification about the changes in the TOU did it mention anything about transferring title/ownership.**

Regulators have accused Celsius of marketing illegal securities, incompetence, gross incompetence, negligence, fraud, fraudulent representation, and securities fraud (and more): “The Debtors have remained under investigation by numerous states, including the Coordinating States and others, as to whether those operations and the Terms of Use applicable thereto have,

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<sup>121</sup> <https://cases.stretto.com/public/x191/11749/PLEADINGS/117491129228000000138.pdf> Page 5.

Emphasis added.

<sup>122</sup> These were the only relevant changes. I did not have a loan, nor was I an accredited investor so those changes are irrelevant.

inter alia, resulted in the Debtors marketing securities without necessary registrations and without complying with the regulatory framework of state (and federal) law.”

Regulators have called into question if the Terms of Use are even legal. If the Terms of Use are legal, then Mr. Shanks’s assets are *still his* property, and not that of the estates, and if they are not legal, then his assets are *still his* property and not that of the Debtors: “There are significant issues with respect to whether the Debtors can rely on their own, arguably unlawful, Terms of Use to determine the purported ownership of these assets and what rights they have in them<sup>123</sup>.”

Regulators also stated: “Customers were told over and over again that they were loaning their assets to the Debtors and they could recall that loan at any time they chose and receive it back. The use of the term “loan” would certainly lead normal lay persons to assume they retained ownership of the crypto they entrusted to the Debtors.” It *seems* like the regulators are, *at the very least, implying* that the Debtors committed fraud by misrepresenting the facts. Clearly the contract was not unambiguous as the Debtors claim.

Regulators seem to be clearly stating that at no point were the assets *actually* conveyed or the title transferred (this includes the right to them also) to the Debtors: “If there were an actual transfer of full ownership, that transaction might well be a taxable event, but there is no evidence that such occurred or that any full purchase price was ever agreed to or paid out by the Debtors.” What regulators also said, quite unambiguously was that: “The assets always remained subject to the customers’ unilateral right to withdraw them at any time (with no need to pay anything to

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<sup>123</sup> <https://cases.stretto.com/public/x191/11749/PLEADINGS/117491129228000000138.pdf>

“buy” them back from the Debtors) and the further right to be paid “rewards” during the time that they “loaned” those assets to the Debtors to use.”

Regulators do a great job of tearing apart the Debtors’ flimsy argument when they state: “The Debtors also claim to own the assets that were deposited by its customers and not merely to have lawful possession thereof, pointing, for instance, to language in the most recent paragraph 13 that refers to such purported ownership. But, that language is itself highly ambiguous, stating that “you grant Celsius, . . . for the duration of the period during which the Eligible Digital Assets are loaned to us through your Celsius Account, all right and title to such Digital Assets, including ownership rights.” In other words, the very language upon which the Debtors rely to show a transfer or ownership states, in the very same sentence, that the assets are being loaned to Celsius. Clearly, such contradictions rebut any claim that customers understood that they were giving away all rights to control their assets. (And that leaves aside the effect of any verbal statements made by Mr. Mashinsky or others that may have confused matters further, see., e.g., the recent filing at Docket No. 1464 by customer K. David Flora referring to those verbal assurances as to his retained ownership of his assets).”

Regulators also hit the nail on the head (so to speak) that there “is some mention in the Terms of Use that technical issues might require limits or delays in access to the account, [but] that is not the same as a general reservation of a right to eliminate the guaranteed withdrawal privileges customers were promised. It is far from clear that parties would have been as willing

to sign those Terms of Use if they were aware that the Debtors would interpret those terms as broadly as they do now.”

Regulators also say that customers, such as Mr. Shanks, have been “barred by the Debtors from retrieving them as promised” their assets.

To further prove Mr. Shanks’s point, the Supreme Court ruled (Justice Scalia): “The **wrongful refusal** of a depository bank **to pay to the order of its customer is a breach of contract, but it is not the control of customer property.**” See *Citizens Bank of Md. v. Strumpf*<sup>127</sup>(1995). Celsius is not a bank, but it operated much in the same way, as the assets they held were those of Mr. Shanks who deposited them, which means that the refusal of a depository bank (in this case Celsius) **constitutes a breach of contract**, but the refusal to allow the withdrawal is not them asserting control over his property. Thus, in Justice Scalia’s view, the deposit account (in this case the assets of Mr. Shanks) **is not property of the bankruptcy estate when the bank breaches its contract by repudiating its duty to honor checks or**

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<sup>125</sup> Emphasis added. Celsius TOU.

<sup>126</sup> <https://celsius.network/terms-of-use> Section 27, subsection C. Emphasis added.

<sup>127</sup> Emphasis added.

withdrawals. This is *very* similar to what occurred when Celsius *not only* refused to honor the withdrawal (as it is required to by various laws, and the terms of service, since the terms of service allowing Celsius to restrict withdrawals were **terminated** after Mr. Shanks instructed Celsius to close the account), it also breached the contract by not closing Mr. Shanks's account, not allowing him to withdraw/transfer his assets (even though the sections of the terms that allowed them to do so have been **terminated**), and by paying Mr. Shanks interest/earnings/yield on July 11th, 2022.

Celsius/the Debtors **cannot** have *some* parts of the contract be enforceable/in effect (such as the limitations on withdrawals/paying off loans), while simultaneously having other parts be irrelevant/not in effect (such as the closure of Mr. Shanks's loan account that occurred on July 5th, 2022.) They cannot have it both ways, either the contract is enforceable (by both parties) in its entirety, or it is completely and totally unenforceable, thereby null and void in Mr. Shanks's case. Either the court must find that the contract is enforceable in its entirety for Mr. Shanks's case (and that Celsius **materially breached** it by not allowing Mr. Shanks to manage his established assets to pay off the loan as he deemed fit and closing the account, which led to the contract being voidable, and which Mr. Shanks has voided, prepetition), which would lead to Mr. Shanks's assets being declared not property of the estate under Section 541(d), or that the entire contract is null and void, causing all assets transferred by Mr. Shanks to be returned, and Mr. Shanks to return to the Debtors any "interest" or "rewards" that was paid into his account. The terms of the contract are *quite* clear, Mr. Shanks had/has the right to close his loan account as he deemed necessary with his established assets in the accounts (pre bankruptcy at least) at any time he wished as he has done in the past year. All Mr. Shanks had to do (as he did) was to email Celsius's support and instruct them to terminate the loan account by transferring the appropriate coins to the balance due.

After Celsius was instructed to close the loan account (on July 5th, 2022), and they refused (also on July 5th, 2022), they **materially breached** their contract with Mr. Shanks and lost the legal title to the assets. These assets should have been returned to Mr. Shanks, and **not** transferred to the bankruptcy estate “**Where a debtor has lost legal and equitable interests in property prior to the petition date, that property does not become property of the estate upon the bankruptcy filing—even if the debtor still retains possession of the property.** *In re Rodgers*, 333 F.3d 64, 69 (2d Cir. 2003); *see also Lyon v. Contech Constr. Prods., Inc. (In re Computrex, Inc.)*, 403 F.3d 807, 812-13 (6th Cir. 2005) (holding that where a **debtor had only a possessory interest in funds, such funds were not property of the estate**); *In re Munroe*, 183 B.R. 667, 669 (Bankr. D.R.I. 1995) (“There is hardly any question that an entity which has no legal or equitable interest in the property and has **nothing more but a bare possession** has **no interest** which qualified to be the ‘properties of the estate.’”) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).” The Debtor has **mere possession** of Mr. Shanks’s assets, even though they should not, but that is not a reason to allow them to maintain *possession* when they lack any title or right to the assets. Mr. Shanks’s assets are **not** a part of the estate, and should be returned, or paid out in USD<sup>128</sup> to Mr. Shanks as soon as possible. Alternatively, they could be declared to not be property of the estate under Section 541 of the Bankruptcy Code and returned at a later date.

In New York State<sup>129</sup>, “The elements of a cause of action for breach of contract are:

- (1) The formation of a contract between plaintiff and defendant.

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<sup>128</sup> The USD value of the assets, at the time the check is written (and interest/airdrops etc), should be paid out to Mr. Shanks plus a 5% premium due to the volatility of cryptocurrencies, and to account for fees associated with repurchasing the cryptocurrencies. Along with compensation for all additional damages dealt to Mr. Shanks, including but not limited to: expenses such as filing fees, transportation, etc.

<sup>129</sup> *Orlander v. Staples, Inc.*, 802 F.3d 289, 294 (2d Cir. 2015) (quoting *Johnson v. Nextel Commc'ns, Inc.*, 660 F.3d 131, 142 (2d Cir. 2011)).

(2) The performance by plaintiff,  
(3) The **defendant's failure to perform**<sup>130</sup>, [and]  
(4) The **resulting damage**<sup>131</sup>.” 2 Leon C. Lazer, et al., New York Pattern Jury Instructions – Civil § 4.1, at 594 (2d ed. 2006); *see JP Morgan Chase v. J.H. Elec. of N.Y., Inc.*, 69 A.D.3d 802, 803, 893 N.Y.S.2d 237 (2d Dep’t 2010); *Furia v. Furia*, 116 A.D.2d 694, 498 N.Y.S.2d 12, 13 (2d Dep’t 1986).

The first two points of the cause of action for a breach of contract are undisputable. The Defendant and Mr. Shanks **did** enter into a contract and *Mr. Shanks did* perform. The third part is disputed by the Debtors, but it is quite clear that Celsius **did fail** to perform (because if they did perform, Mr. Shanks would not be a part of this bankruptcy). The **resulting damage is clear: if Celsius fulfilled its contractual obligations, then Mr. Shanks's assets would have been transferred to Mr. Shanks's custody wallet after paying off the loan account.**

“Unlike the “Earn” Program, title to cryptocurrency “held in custody shall ‘at all times remain with the [user]’ and ‘Celsius will not transfer, sell, loan or otherwise rehypothecate’ digital assets

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<sup>130</sup> Bolded text added for emphasis.

<sup>131</sup> Bolded text added for emphasis.

in custody unless ‘specifically instructed by [users], except as required by valid court order, competent regulatory agency, government agency or applicable law.’”

1. Specifically, the Terms of Use provided: “Title to any of your Eligible Digital Assets in a Custody Wallet shall at all times remain with you and not transfer to Celsius.”
2. “Celsius will not transfer, sell, loan or otherwise rehypothecate Eligible Digital Assets held in a Custody Wallet unless specifically instructed by you, except as required by valid court order, competent regulatory agency, government agency or applicable law.”

If Celsius had processed the loan payoff process (as they were contractually **required** to), the assets would have not been a part of the bankruptcy estate, as, **at the very least**, they would have been in the “Custody” program. The Debtors have stated numerous times that they believe that assets in the “Custody” program are not a part of the estate. The Debtors violated the contract they had with Mr. Shanks by not allowing him to pay off his loan account with his platform established crypto as requested and as the contract **required** them to do so, the “Pause” notwithstanding. Celsius’s failure to do so caused Mr. Shanks’s collateral assets to wrongly *purportedly* be sold off based on right of offset to cover the outstanding balance for which Mr. Shanks COULD NOT based on the defendants actions personal actions of pausing/freezing all transfers/swaps between accounts. This leads to **significant damage and harm** to Mr. Shanks as it deprives him of access to his assets and, if not fixed, would lead Mr. Shanks to *wrongfully* lose a **large** percentage of his assets because of the actions of the Debtors.

This **material breach** of contract on the part of the Debtors should have (and still should) resulted in an immediate<sup>132</sup>, complete and total return of all assets that Mr. Shanks deposited with Celsius due to the contract being null and void.

If the Debtors had performed based on the contract Mr. Shanks's "Earn" account, assets would have had<sup>133</sup> been utilized to meet the loan requirements and the appropriate coins transferred (per their own terms of service) to the loan account terminating all financial obligations based on right of offset.

On July 5th, 2022, the contract between Mr. Shanks and the Debtors was breached<sup>134</sup> when they refused to perform by allowing full contractual obligations to utilize his "Earn" account. The contract signed between the Debtors and Mr. Shanks stated **nothing** about them being able to refuse to utilize his accounts to pay off loans with on platform crypto (other than a court order/request from law enforcement, of which there was none). Their claims that they couldn't take action based on Pause/transfer/swap for Mr. Shanks's account are *irrelevant*, and frankly insulting that they are attempting to mislead the court on this, when there is *clearly no* basis in the **contract** for Celsius to have refused to use his assets to pay off the loan account. There was nothing in the contract stating that accounts could not be pay offed base on my financial decisions to manage on platform currency (and since the contract is purportedly unambiguous, according to the Debtors themselves, extrinsic evidence such as the "ordinary course" nonsense that Mr. Ferraro brought up in his deposition, is not relevant).

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<sup>132</sup> Mr. Shanks recognizes that at this time, it may not be possible for the assets to be returned immediately in kind. See *Request For Relief* for further clarification.

<sup>133</sup> According to the Terms of Service (contract) section 11. Withdrawals: "Subject to these Terms, for any of your Eligible Digital Assets that you elect to utilize in the Earn Service (if available to you), you have a call option on all loans made to Celsius to demand immediate, complete or partial repayment of any loan at any time through (i) transfer to a Custody Wallet, if available to you, or (ii) a complete or partial withdrawal of Eligible Digital Assets at any time. Such repayment will terminate in whole or in part your

loan to Celsius and you shall no longer accrue Rewards on the amount of loans as of the time of your exercise of the call option. Celsius initiates the withdrawal process immediately following a withdrawal request when possible; however, we may require up to three (3) days after you submit your withdrawal request to process the withdrawal."

After the **material breach** of contract occurred, there was nothing giving Celsius the legal right to continue to hold onto Mr. Shanks's assets. To quote the Debtors<sup>135</sup> "when a contract's terms are **unambiguous**, courts **must** apply them as written. *In re Enron Corp.*, 292 B.R. 752, 762 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2003) ("If the contract language is '**unambiguous**,' this Court must enforce the plain, ordinary, and common meaning of those terms as a matter of law without reference to extrinsic evidence."))." The common meaning of "If you want to terminate your Celsius Account with Celsius, you may do so by notifying Celsius at support@celsius.network," is that if a customer wants to close his/her account at *any* time, *all* one would have to do, is email Celsius, and **no amount of complex legal theories or case law can change that**. The Debtors did not have the title to the assets, nor do they now. Courts have interpreted section 541(d) to "expressly" provide that "property in which a debtor **holds only bare legal title is not property of the estate.**" [*Golden v. Guardian (In re Lenox Healthcare, Inc.)*, 343 B.R. 96, 100 (Bankr. D. Del. 2006); *see also In re S.W. Bach & Co.*, 435 B.R. 866, 878 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2010)]. This would mean that the assets should have been returned to Mr. Shanks, but the (soon to be) Debtors did not do so. Chapter 11 Bankruptcy protections do not go into effect until the (soon to be) Debtors actually file for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. What the Debtors did is effectively theft: they took Mr. Shanks's assets and transferred them to the bankruptcy estate in violation of both bankruptcy law and the contract (which they **materially breached/voided**).

Here, Celsius was unjustly enriched when—without any **contractual right** to do so, and in the admitted absence of any equitable interest in the coins—it wrongfully retained Mr.

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135 Emphasis added.

Shanks's cryptocurrency. Once Mr. Shanks attempted to terminate his "loan" to Celsius by instructing them to close his account by utilizing platform established funds, no contract existed between Mr. Shanks and Celsius, since according to the terms of service, the contract **terminated** bar a few survival provisions and because Celsius **materially breached** it. Celsius had **no** more of a **contractual right** to do anything with the coins in Mr. Shanks's account (that were being held as collateral) than it did with coins that anyone else held in an external wallet, such as Coinbase, or any other coins that were transferred to external wallets.

To the extent that Celsius has circumvented having to return the collateral coins to Mr. Shanks "Custody" account to by selling them off to cover the loan based on right of offset and therefor keeping more coins in the "Earn Account" to use, commingle, stake, or rehypothecate in which it held no **right or title based on breach of contract**, its actions not only constitute conversion of Mr. Shanks's property<sup>136</sup> and an infringement on Mr. Shanks's rights, including property rights, For example, New York prohibits any person from engaging "in any virtual currency business activity" **without a license** (and Celsius seems to lack licenses for *basically* everything). *See* 23 CRR-NY 200.3. "Virtual currency business activity" is defined to include, among other things, "**storing, holding, or maintaining custody or control** of virtual currency on behalf of others." 23 CRR-NY 200.2(q)(2). Celsius, which does not have a New York virtual currency license (also known as a BitLicense), is violating New York regulation by storing, holding, and maintaining control of cryptocurrency on behalf of Mr. Shanks (This is relevant

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136 A claim for conversion exists where "the defendant acted without authorization, defendant exercised dominion or right of ownership over property belonging to the plaintiff, plaintiff has made a demand for the property, and that demand has been refused." *Lagemann v. Spence*, 2020 WL 5754800, at \*10 (S.D.N.Y. May 18, 2020), report and recommendation adopted, 2020 WL 7384009 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 16, 2020) (citation omitted). Conversion claims apply to cryptocurrency

because the contract is/was governed by New York law for some reason).

In equity and good conscience, Celsius ought not to retain Mr. Shanks's property under these circumstances.

In addition to Celsius' **unjust enrichment**, there was an implied, and contractually written promise by Celsius that, once Mr. Shanks requested to close his "loan" account, he would no longer be subject to any (relevant<sup>137</sup>) previously agreed contractual terms between Celsius and himself. In effect, Celsius would respect Mr. Shanks's **property rights**. Celsius instead **blatantly** violated those rights and denied Mr. Shanks access to his own property—even though *after* the **material breach** of contract, the *entire* contract, including all of the clauses named in Section 35, was voided. If the breach of contract did not occur, then the entirety of the contract bar the irrelevant terms listed in Section 35, **terminated**. *After* the **material breach** of contract, Mr. Shanks never granted/re-granted Celsius the contractual right to suspend/limit access to his account or any contractual rights for them to do anything with his assets. On the contrary, Mr. Shanks demanded *many times* that his assets on the platform be used to meet the right of offset to pay off the loan. That the collateral assets be placed in his "custody" account per the requirement of the contract.

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<sup>137</sup> There are various clauses that are supposed to be in effect after an account closure, as seen in Section 35 of the contract, but none of them are relevant, nor do they allow Celsius to have any sort of control over Mr. Shanks's assets. They are "Sections 16 (Taxes), 25 (Indemnification), 26 (Disclaimer of Warranty), 27 (Disputes, Binding Individual Arbitration, and Class Actions and Class Arbitrations Waiver), 28 (Our Ownership of the Services and Celsius IP), 30 (Waiver) and 33 (Governing Law and Venue)"  
<sup>138</sup> That offer was denied, and the offer is now withdrawn.

Accordingly, Mr. Shanks's coins in his account are subject to a constructive trust, if they are not under express trust under the contract terms.

The Debtors ended up holding Mr. Shanks's assets in an express or constructive trust once they **materially breached** the contract (and even if the contract was *not* breached, the assets were still held in a constructive trust). “Thus, courts have concluded that property which a **debtor holds in trust (express or constructive) for another does not become property of the estate when the debtor files for bankruptcy**<sup>140</sup>.” *In re Edison Bros., Inc.*, 243 B.R. 231, 235 (Bankr. D. Del. 2000) (citing *In re Columbia Gas Systems, Inc.*, 997 F.2d 1039, 1059 (3d Cir.1993)) (“**Congress clearly intended the exclusion created by section 541(d) to include not only funds held in express trust, but also funds held in constructive trust**<sup>141</sup>”); see also *In re Flanagan*, 503 F.3d 171, 180 (2d Cir.2007) (“The effect of a constructive trust in bankruptcy is profound. While the bankrupt estate is defined very broadly under § 541(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code to include all legal or equitable interests of the debtor, **any property that the debtor holds in constructive trust for another is excluded from the estate pursuant to § 541(d)**<sup>142</sup>”).

### **1. Cause exists to grant relief<sup>143</sup> from the automatic stay.**

22. 11 U.S.C. §362(d)(1) provides:

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<sup>139</sup> Which is no longer possible/legal due to California ordering Celsius to cease all activities in California.

<sup>140</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>141</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>142</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>143</sup> The Debtors are highly likely to argue that Mr. Shanks is attempting to lift the stay fully, and that somehow this will lead to “opening the floodgates”, and have thousands of cases filed all over the country and the world, which is ludicrous and factually wrong. Mr. Shanks does not NECESSARILY seek to lift the automatic stay, as he believes it is not necessary to be able to argue his case in this court, and get the compensation he deserves.

On request of a party in interest and after notice and a hearing, the court shall grant relief from the stay provided under subsection (a) of this section, such as by terminating, annulling, modifying, or conditioning such stay . . . for cause, including the lack of adequate protection of an interest in property of such party in interest. . . .  
11 U.S.C. §362(d).

The Bankruptcy Code does not define the phrase “for cause.” *In re Residential Cap., LLC*, 2015 WL 1281960, at \*3 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Mar. 18, 2015)<sup>144</sup>). The legislative history indicates that it is intended to be a flexible standard. *See S. Rep. No. 989, 95th Cong., 2d Sess. 52, reprinted in 1978 U.S. Code Cong. & Admin. News 5787, 5838* (“The lack of adequate protection of an interest in property is one cause for relief, but is not the only cause.”); *H.R. Rep. No. 595, 95th Cong., 2d Sess. 343–44, reprinted in 1978 U.S. Code Cong. & Admin. News 6300* (stating that the “facts of each request will determine whether relief is appropriate under the circumstances”).

*Numerous* courts have found that a debtor’s **bare** possession of property, without any accompanying **legal or equitable interest**, is “**insufficient** to justify [the] continuation [of the automatic stay] where relief has been sought.” *In re Mizuno*, 288 B.R. 45, 49–50 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y.2002); *see also In re Richmond*, 513 B.R. 34, 41 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 2014) (same); *Khan v. Citibank*, No. CV PX 16-3121, 2017 WL 2311185, at \*1 (D. Md. May 26, 2017) (noting that because “**a mere possessory interest in not subject to a plan of reorganization,**” cause exists to lift the automatic stay under 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(1)). To make something crystal clear, Mr.

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<sup>144</sup> The oft-cited Sonnax factors were identified by the Second Circuit as “factors to be weighed in deciding whether litigation should be permitted to continue in another forum” and thus appear to be inapposite here. See *In re Sonnax Indus., Inc.*, 907 F.2d 1280, 1286 (2d Cir. 1990).

Shanks does not<sup>145</sup> *currently* seek to litigate this matter outside of Your Honor's courtroom. *If* it is necessary, the automatic stay can be lifted to allow him to assert his claims to his assets within this courtroom. Mr. Shanks does not seek, nor does he plan to litigate this matter outside of this courtroom at this time. This court can and should rule on this Adversary Proceeding.

Here, Celsius' bare possession of Mr. Shanks's coins, *without* any corresponding **legal or equitable interest** in such coins, does **not** justify the continuation of the automatic stay. Rather, Celsius' **lack of legal or equitable interest** constitutes "cause" for terminating the stay and returning Mr. Shanks's coins to their rightful owner.

**2. The Debtors have no equity in the Plaintiff's Assets, and the coins are not necessary to the Debtors' reorganization.**

Section 362(d)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code **requires** a court to grant relief from the automatic stay against property if "(A) the debtor does not have an equity in such property; and (B) such property is not necessary to an effective reorganization." 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(2). "The creditor bears the burden to show a lack of equity ..... Once lack of equity is established, the burden shifts to the debtor to show that the property is necessary for effective reorganization." *In re Ehrenfeld*, 2020 WL 5758819, at \*3 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 28, 2020) (citations omitted); *see also In re Thomas*, No. 14-11738 (MG), 2017 WL 123746, at \*2 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 5, 2017) ("If the

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<sup>145</sup> All rights reserved, including but not limited to appealing a decision, which would necessitate going outside of Your Honor's courtroom. I also reserve the right to have my Adversary Proceeding tried in the District Court (which would require going outside of Your Honor's courtroom) if the Debtors do not consent to it being heard in front of you. I also reserve the right to have my Adversary Proceeding tried via a jury trial outside of Your Honor's courtroom even if the Debtor's consent to it being heard in front of you (in the District Court).

movant shows that the debtor lacks equity in the property, the debtor must then show ‘that there [is] a reasonable possibility of a successful reorganization within a reasonable time’ and that the property is ‘essential’ to such a reorganization.”) (quoting *In re Timbers of Inwood Forest*, 484 U.S. 365, 375-76 (1988)).

Celsius has **no legal or equitable interest** in, or **right to use**, Mr. Shanks’s coins.

Celsius has *mere* possession (which they should **not** have) of property belonging to Mr. Shanks. The assets they continue to hold onto are worth approximately \$150,000 on the petition date. To call that a drop in the bucket would be a **massive** understatement. Even if the Court were to consider the appreciation in the price of crypto assets, and any interest/gains they may have made on them through various means including staking<sup>146</sup>. There is simply no *plausible* argument that such an insanely **minuscule** amount could be “essential” to the Debtors’ yet-to-be-announced reorganization plan.

<sup>146</sup> Staking is a way to generate interest or yields on ETH.  
<sup>148</sup>

<https://dfpi.ca.gov/2022/08/08/dfpi-continues-to-bring-actions-against-crypto-interest-account-providers/>

Celsius has *claimed* in the past that by returning Mr. Shanks's assets, "it is less likely that other unsecured creditors will receive equal treatment" (equal treatment being a return of assets). That is *irrelevant*, as Mr. Shanks should **not** be a creditor, as the Debtors lack any title/legal right to *continue* to illegally hold onto Mr. Shanks's assets. Simply put, the only reason Mr. Shanks is a "unsecured creditor"<sup>149</sup> is because the Debtors *wrongfully* transferred his assets to the bankruptcy estate when they had **no** title or authority to do so. Celsius moved assets when they did **not** have the right, permission, or authority to do so or, in other words, they *stole* them. Mr. Shanks is *solely* in this position because of the actions of the Debtors. *Mr. Shanks*'s assets should not, and cannot be a part of the estate, because the estate does **not** have a **legal or equitable interest** in them; *see Moody v. Amoco Oil Co.*, 734 F.2d 1200, 1213 (7th Cir. 1984) (holding that the "rights a debtor has in property at the commencement of the case continue in bankruptcy—no more, no less"<sup>150</sup>)). Thus, if a debtor holds **no** *legal or equitable* interest in property as of the commencement of the case, such property does **not** become property of the debtor's estate under section 541 and the debtor is **prohibited** from distributing such property to its creditors. The Debtor's argument was that returning Mr. Shanks's assets would be "inconsistent with two key tenets of chapter 11: equal treatment among similarly situated

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<sup>149</sup> Mr. Shanks disputes his status as an "unsecured creditor" and continues to state that he should not be a creditor, or a part of the bankruptcy process at all.

<sup>150</sup>Emphasis added,

creditors and an orderly process<sup>151</sup>.” The Debtor’s statement that: “The majority of the Debtors’ creditors are Celsius customers just like Shanks<sup>152</sup>” is very wrong. Mr. Shanks is extremely uniquely situated, even if you take into account all of the “30 other complaints already filed in various small claims courts around the country,” that would be less than .01% of creditors. A majority *typically* consists of more than 50.01%, **not** .01%.

After the **material breach** of contract, Celsius lost any and all rights they (may have) had, including *any and all title, legal/equitable interest* in *Mr. Shanks’s* assets.

**3. The industry standard is to allow account closures and loan payoffs at any time; Celsius’ terms match the rest of the industry.**

It would have been *nothing unusual or idiosyncratic* about Celsius allowing Mr. Shanks to pay off the loan and close his account in accordance with Celsius’ **industry-standard** Terms of Use,

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<sup>151</sup> <https://cases.stretto.com/public/x191/11749/PLEADINGS/117490825228000000049.pdf> Emphasis added.

152 Emphasis added

regardless of the fact that there was a “Pause/transfers/swaps” between accounts, as there is nothing<sup>153</sup> in the contract that allows Celsius to refuse to close or pay off loans Mr. Shanks’s account. The account loan closure request was done “**according to ordinary business terms.**” Second, the requested withdrawal of crypto to pay off the loan, which *should* have occurred *after* the *request*.

## **REGULATORY ORDERS**

Celsius has also had a great deal of regulatory scrutiny due to allegations (from approximately 40 states) that Celsius was offering unregulated securities, which Mr. Shanks, as a non accredited investor should not have had access to<sup>154</sup>.

For example:

1. On September 17, 2021, the New Jersey Bureau of Securities (the “NJ Securities Bureau”) entered a Summary Cease and Desist Order (the “NJ Order”) against the Debtors (a) finding that the Debtors had offered and sold unregistered securities in violation of various New Jersey state securities statutes and (b) prohibiting the Debtors

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<sup>153</sup> There is nothing that is relevant, since there was no pending legal action against Mr. Shanks, nor any requests from law enforcement/potential money laundering issues etc.

<sup>154</sup> As was stated by the Defendant’s attorney, Mr. Patrick Nash: “as of April 2022, it was no longer possible to be a participant in the Earn program if you were a US-based non-accredited investor”

from (i) “offering for sale any security, including any Earn Rewards product to or from New Jersey unless the security is registered with the NJ Securities Bureau” and (ii) “accepting any additional assets into an existing Earn Rewards account.” By its terms, the NJ Order became effective on November 1, 2021; however, upon information and belief, the effective date was delayed following discussions between the Debtors and the NJ Securities Bureau.

2. Substantially similar orders were entered on August 8, 2022<sup>155</sup>, September 16 and 23, 2021, in California<sup>156</sup>, Alabama and Kentucky, respectively<sup>157</sup>.
3. On October 18, 2021, the New York Attorney General announced an order (the “NY Order”) (which was made available to the public only in redacted form) demanding that any unlawful selling or offering for sale of securities and/or commodities within or from the state of New York that are not registered by N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 352 cease<sup>158</sup>. Upon information and belief, the Debtors denied receiving the NY Order, but acknowledged the New York Attorney General requested information on or around October 18, 2021.

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<sup>155</sup> <https://dfpi.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/337/2022/08/D-R-Celsius-Network-Inc.pdf>

<sup>156</sup> It should be noted that the Plaintiff is a resident of Colorado.

<sup>158</sup> See Office of the Attorney General of New York, Press Release (Oct. 18, 2021).

4. Upon information and belief, the Debtors denied receiving the NY Order, but acknowledged the New York Attorney General requested information on or around October 18, 2021.

**EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL MISREPRESENTATIONS, FRAUDULENT  
MISREPRESENTATION, AND MORE**<sup>159</sup>

Celsius promoted and advertised its services, using social media, and various news sources. In particular, Mr. Alex Mashinsky would host weekly AMAs (Ask Mashinsky Anything) (“AMAs”) on YouTube.com. The AMAs are filled with repeated material misrepresentations concerning the financial stability of Celsius, the risks associated with depositing cryptocurrency at Celsius, its regulatory compliance, *and* its transparency and ownership of the cryptocurrency assets.

**A. Representations concerning Regulation Compliance**

- On October 10, 2020, Mashinsky replied to a tweet: “We are ready for all outcomes. We registered with the SEC in 2018 so we won’t have the issues others have.”
- During a media interview in December 2020, Mashinsky stated, “Celsius from day one, one of the first things we did . . . was register with the SEC . . . .”
- In December 2021, Mashinsky was quoted in Barron’s as stating, “The regulators looked into us and said these guys know what they’re doing.”

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<sup>159</sup> Mr. Shanks would like to thank the Ad Hoc Group of Borrowers, and their counsel, for the use of their Adversary Proceedings as a template for some of the below claims.

- In an AMA from December 3, 2021, Mashinsky represented that “states and other regulators have looked into Celsius, they all came back thumbs up, there’s no problem, we didn’t find anything....”

#### **B. Representations concerning The Safety Of Its Business Model:**

- [t]he Celsius business model is structured to do the exact opposite of what banks do — by giving 80% of total revenue back to our community each week in the form of earned interest. We earn profits by lending coins to hedge funds, exchanges, and institutional traders, and by issuing asset backed loans at an average of 9% interest.
- Mashinsky publicly claimed in an April 22, 2022 AMA that “what Celsius does best, better than anybody else, is go out to market and earn yield on these assets.”
- Mashinsky claimed on April 13, 2022 “[o]n the institutional side, we have very credible counterparties that have billions of dollars on their balance sheet and for those, we have undercollateralized but we don’t offer any non-collateralized loans.”

#### **C. Representations concerning Celsius’ Financial Stability:**

- A run on the bank cannot happen at Celsius because Celsius never lends more than what it has ...we always have enough coins and enough collateral and so on to return all the assets to all of our users. Celsius, Expansion in Asia with Special Guest Lennis Lai (OkEx) - Celsius AMA, YouTube (April 30, 2021),  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LaIfR4BuIno>.
- Celsius takes full responsibility if anything goes bad we take full responsibility that's part of why we raised it 750 million and now we have over two billion dollars on our balance

sheet again more than anybody else.” Celsius AMA 10th December 2021, YouTube  
(December 10, 2021), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X304U3isWzg>.

#### **D. Representations concerning a potential Bankruptcy of Celsius**

- On March 25, 2021, Mashinsky, posted on Twitter, in reply to a Twitter user who asked what would happen to their coins in the event of Celsius’s bankruptcy, that “all coins are returned to their owners even in the case of bankruptcy.” That is clearly not so.



**WreckItRolf** @Wreck1tRolf · Mar 24, 2021

Replies to [@Mashinsky](#)

Alex, I've asked a few times now, and directly to you but have yet to receive a response. What happens to my coins in the event that Celsius Network goes bankrupt?

2 1 3 1 1 1

**Alex Mashinsky**   @Mashinsky · Mar 25, 2021

Replies to [@Wreck1tRolf](#)

all coins are returned to their owners even in the case of bankruptcy

1 1 3 1 1 1

#### **E. Representations concerning Ownership of Cryptocurrency**

- In a November 26, 2019 AMA, Mr. Mashinsky stated “[t]hese are your coins, not our coins. Whatever you put in, if you put in one Bitcoin, you will be withdrawing one Bitcoin . . . It’s always your Bitcoin. Always your Ether. Always your CEL Token.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1n5g7uJyvQ>
- On July 24, 2020, Mr. Mashinsky stated: [W]hen you give us bitcoin it's not like it's ours, right? It's yours legally. It is still your bitcoin. The only thing we do is

when you lend us your bitcoin, we lend them to people who pay us interest. When they return them, it goes back to the wallet and it's still yours from that wallet. Celsius Network AMA with Alex Mashinsky and HFN's Roni CohenPavon, YouTube (July 24, 2020), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kC-89USzxaM>.

As detailed at length in the Final Examiner's Report, Celsius knew that the representations identified above (and others that were not, due to judicial economy) were false. *See* Examiner's Report, Part II, Article VI,G at pp. 256-67 entitled "**Celsius did not Correct Its Misleading and Inaccurate Statements**" ("the Examiner found **no** evidence that **anyone** at Celsius suggested or executed on a process of correcting or retracting inaccurate and misleading statements that Celsius's employees identified and removed (or attempted to remove) between May 2021 and June 2022.")<sup>160</sup>.

In reasonable reliance upon the Debtors' misrepresentations, Mr. Shanks entered a contractual arrangement in which he lent his assets to Celsius with the understanding it could be used as collateralized for loans and did so in the past, for which now is being reporting to the IRS as a sell off of uncollateralized funds being sold off, just another one of the many **Misleading and Inaccurate Statements**, that the defendants actions have used to benefit from common person.

## **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

### **(Constructive Trust)**

Mr. Shanks repeats and realleges each of the foregoing paragraphs (and all relevant sections of this Adversary Proceeding) as if fully set forth at length herein.

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<sup>160</sup> (Emphasis added)

The Supreme Court has held that property held by a debtor in trust *is not* property of the estate. *United States v. Whiting Pools, Inc*<sup>161</sup>., (“Congress plainly excluded property of others held by the debtor in trust at the time of the filing of the petition.”).

The New York Court of Appeals has *expressly* stated that a person wrongfully acquiring property can be treated as a constructive trustee notwithstanding the lack<sup>162</sup> of a fiduciary relationship. See *Simonds v. Simonds*, 380 N.E.2d 189, 194 (NY 1978). Relying on *Simonds*, the Second Circuit has “found that the fourth element is the most important because ‘the purpose of the constructive trust is prevention of unjust enrichment.’” *In re Grubb & Ellis Co.*, No. 12-10685 MG, 2012 WL 1036071, at \*6 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Mar. 27, 2012) (Glenn, J.), aff’d, 523 B.R. 423 (S.D.N.Y. 2014) (quoting *In re First Cent. Fin. Corp.*, 377 F.3d 209, 212 (2d Cir. 2004)).

Constructive trust property that is **commingled** with a Debtor’s assets does not become property of the estate where the trust funds can be identified or traced. *In re Schick*, 234 B.R. 337, 343 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1999). The fact that the trust *res* has been commingled with other funds in an account **does not** prevent tracing, “but it requires the court to adopt a special procedure to determine which of the fungible funds in the account are traceable as part of the alleged trust *res*. When a bankrupt debtor is acting as trustee of a constructive trust and money held in trust has been commingled with other funds, the so-called ‘intermediate balance rule’

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<sup>161</sup> 462 U.S. 198, 205 n.10 (1983).

<sup>162</sup> Even though Celsius started to hold a fiduciary relationship to me once it became insolvent, and also once it started to approach the zone of insolvency. According to the *Examiner’s Final* report, Celsius US was insolvent since its inception. While the Debtors claim that the entirety of the Examiner’s report is hearsay, I am sure that it can be verified by using direct documents, which I reserve the right to obtain via discovery.

may be applied to determine how much money the beneficiary can actually recover.” *In re Drexel Burnham Lambert Grp., Inc.*, 142 B.R. 633, 637 (S.D.N.Y. 1992). Under the intermediate balance rule, “[t]he bankruptcy court will follow the trust funds and decree restitution where the amount of the deposit has at all times since the intermingling of funds equaled or exceeded the amount of the trust funds.” (quoting 4 King, *Collier on Bankruptcy* ¶ 541.13, at 541–79–541–80 (15th ed. 1992). Quite simply, the Debtors hold approximately 1,300,000 times as many assets (valued in USD at the time of the petition) as they owe Mr. Shanks, so to make an argument that the coins are not there would be silly and a waste of this court’s time. Even if somehow the Debtors have managed to lose all of the assets they possess/own, then Mr. Shanks is still owed<sup>163</sup> his coins even if they have been converted into other property or are otherwise missing from the estate. *See In re Columbia Pac. Mortg., Inc.*..

When a debtor holds legal title to but does not have equitable interest in certain property, the debtor **must** turn such property over to the holders with such equitable interest in the property. *See MCZ, Inc. v. Andrus Res., Inc. (In re MCZ, Inc.)*, 82 B.R. 40, 42 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. 1987) (“[w]here Debtor merely holds bare legal title to property as agent or bailee for another, **Debtor’s bare legal title is of no value to the estate, and Debtor should convey the property to its rightful owner**<sup>164</sup>.”

Additionally, a debtor who holds proceeds attributable to property owned by another holds only **bare legal title** to such property and thus, **must** turnover such proceeds to the interest

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<sup>163</sup> [See, e.g., *In re Columbia Pac. Mortg., Inc.*, 20 B.R. 259, 262–64 (Bankr. W.D. Wash. 1981) (awarding holder of participation ownership interest proceeds of a property sale because holder was beneficial owner, and debtor only held legal title to the proceeds)].

<sup>164</sup>Emphasis added.

holder of such property. Therefore, Mr. Shanks is owed the proceeds from his coins if they have been converted into other property, dissipated, or are otherwise missing from the estate. If they have not been converted, dissipated or otherwise became missing from the estate (as in the coins are still there), Mr. Shanks is *still* owed his coins. [See, e.g., *In re Columbia Pac. Mortg., Inc.*, 20 B.R. 259, 262–64 (Bankr. W.D. Wash. 1981) (awarding holder of participation ownership interest proceeds of a property sale because holder was beneficial owner, and debtor only held legal title to the proceeds)]. So, regardless of what occurred with Mr. Shanks’s assets (such as a termination of the account due to a account closure, or a material breach of contract causing the Terms of Use to be voided, or Mr. Shanks’s assets being held in express/constructive trust after he exercised his call option to demand immediate payment), Mr. Shanks holds title to them, and the assets (and the proceeds of his assets) must be returned to him.

### **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

#### **(Deceptive Trade Practices)**

Mr. Shanks repeats and realleges each of the foregoing paragraphs (and all relevant sections of this Adversary Proceeding) as if fully set forth at length herein. Each of the Debtors is a person. Each of the Debtors misrepresented material facts concerning the transfer of assets to Celsius, the ownership, and material facts about Celsius’s business model, solvency, and effectively everything. Mr. Shanks reserves all rights, including addressing these claims at a later time, after a scheduling order and briefing schedule have been agreed upon, it will be followed with memorandums of law.

## **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

### **(Consumer Fraud)**

Mr. Shanks repeats and realleges each of the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth at length herein. Each of the Debtors is a person. Mr. Shanks is a consumer, and each of the Debtors misrepresented material facts concerning the transfer of assets to Celsius, the ownership, and material facts about Celsius's business model, solvency, and effectively everything. Mr. Shanks reserves all rights, including addressing these claims at a later time, after a scheduling order and briefing schedule have been agreed upon, it will be followed by memorandums of law.

The Debtors engaged in unlawful practices (i.e. consumer fraud) by, among other things misrepresenting, deceiving, fraudulently stating, fraudulently promising, unfairly endorsing, suppressing or concealing material facts concerning Celsius and the "Earn<sup>165</sup>" program, including, without limitation, false and misleading claims as detailed in the Examiner's Report concerning, *inter alia*:

- a. the Debtors' financial health;
- b. the Debtors' compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- c. the Debtors' ability to meet obligations;
- d. the Debtors' ability to safeguard customer assets; and
- e. the Debtors' revenue sources; and

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<sup>165</sup> Which, to be clear, Mr. Shanks is no longer a part of, and has not been a part of since July 5th, 2022.

The Debtors made these misrepresentations of material facts and/or actively concealed these material facts in connection with inducing consumers to open or maintain accounts on the Celsius Platform. The Debtors made these misrepresentations with the intent of inducing reasonable consumers, such as Mr. Shanks, to rely on such misrepresentations. Mr. Shanks reasonably relied upon the Debtors' misrepresentations, to his detriment. As a direct and proximate result of these unlawful practices, Mr. Shanks suffered harm, including (but not limited to) monetary damages, legal fees<sup>166</sup> and the costs of litigation<sup>167</sup>.

## **FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

### **(Fraudulent Misrepresentation)**

Mr. Shanks repeats and realleges each of the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth at length herein. The Debtors had a duty to communicate information to Mr. Shanks in an accurate, **timely and truthful** manner. As detailed in the Final Examiner's Report, the Debtors made factual representations to Mr. Shanks regarding the Celsius Platform and his accounts thereon, including, without limitation, false and misleading claims about, *inter alia*:

- a. the Debtors' financial health;
- b. the Debtors' compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- c. the Debtors' ability to meet obligations;
- d. the Debtors' ability to safeguard customer assets;
- e. the Debtors' revenue sources; and

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<sup>166</sup> Such as court filing fees.

<sup>167</sup> Including direct, and indirect damages due to being engaged in litigation. All rights reserved.

Each of these representations were material to Mr. Shanks's decision to transfer his assets to the Celsius Platform. Each of the Debtors' representations of material fact were false, as the Debtors intentionally and knowingly mischaracterized how the assets would be handled on the Celsius Platform, among other things. The Debtors:

a. knew that their representations of material fact were false and misleading at the time that they represented the information to Mr. Shanks

b. misrepresented the material facts with reckless indifference to their truth; and/or

c. should have known that their representations of material facts were false and misleading at the time that they represented the information to Mr. Shanks. The Debtors *intentionally* communicated the *inaccurate* information to Mr. Shanks for the purpose of inducing Mr. Shanks to rely on those misrepresentations. Mr. Shanks justifiably relied upon the Debtors' misrepresentations of material facts to his detiment. Mr. Shanks' reliance on the Debtors' misrepresentations of material fact was reasonable. But for the Debtors' fraudulent representations, Mr. Shanks would have never signed any agreements, or used any of the Debtors' services, and never have opened/maintained an account on the Debtors' platform. As a direct and proximate result of the Debtors' misrepresentations of material fact, Mr. Shanks suffered significant harm, including, but not limited to, monetary damages totaling not less than the value of his<sup>168</sup> assets, at the time he is compensated, and the expenses<sup>169</sup> he incurred in pursuit of this case.

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<sup>168</sup> This includes the interest/inflation rate/gains that his assets either generated, or *could have* generated, if they were in his custody. All rights reserved.

<sup>169</sup> Direct and indirect, all rights reserved.

## **SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

### **(Breach Of Contract)**

Mr. Shanks repeats and realleges each of the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth at length herein. To the extent that the “Earn” Terms of Use constitutes a binding contract, the Debtors were obligated to fulfill both the express and implied terms thereof.

The Debtors materially breached the express and implied terms of the Terms of Use<sup>170</sup> by, among other things, misrepresenting how Mr. Shanks’s assets would be treated by the Debtors on the Celsius Platform. Additionally, since at least June 14th, 2022, the Debtors have prevented Mr. Shanks from recovering his assets, even though the Terms of Use provide: “for any of your Eligible Digital Assets that you elect to utilize in the Earn Service (if available to you), you have a call option **on all loans made to Celsius to demand immediate, complete or partial repayment of any loan at any time through (i) transfer to a Custody Wallet, if available to you, or (ii) a complete or partial withdrawal of Eligible Digital Assets at any time**<sup>171</sup>.”

Had the Debtors permitted Mr. Shanks to pay off his loan his assets, would have transferred to his “Custody” account, then the Debtors would not have materially breached the contract, causing Mr. Shanks to void it. This entire ordeal (for Mr. Shanks), and all of this litigation, could have been avoided *if* the Debtors simply followed *their own contract*. As a result of the Debtors’ material breaches of the Terms of Use, Mr. Shanks suffered significant harms,

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<sup>170</sup> This is assuming the Terms of Use were ever valid, and not null and void. All rights reserved, this is not an admission of anything, etc, etc.

<sup>171</sup> (Emphasis added.)

including, but not limited to, monetary damages in an amount not less than the value of his assets (at the time of their, still to occur return), various expenses/actual damages, and litigation costs.

## **SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

### **(Unjust Enrichment<sup>172</sup>)**

Mr. Shanks repeats and realleges each of the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth at length herein.

The Debtors repeatedly represented that the crypto assets that Mr. Shanks transferred (or would transfer), was his property. In reliance on the Debtors' representations, Mr. Shanks transferred his assets onto the Celsius Platform. To the extent Mr. Shanks's assets are determined to be property of the Debtors' bankruptcy estates, the transfers of the assets to the Debtors enriched the Debtors' bankruptcy estates by the value of the assets. To the extent that Mr. Shanks cannot withdraw his assets from Celsius, the transfers of the assets impoverished Mr. Shanks by the value of the Collateral (as well as expenses incurred in the return of the assets, including but not limited<sup>174</sup> to interest, opportunity cost, time, mental energy, etc). It is

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<sup>172</sup> And conversion, which is included in the event that there is not found to be a breach of contract. The Debtors claim that a breach of contract, and a conversion claim cannot typically be made together. Mr. Shanks reserves all rights to that regard, and does not take a position at this time on that matter, but has included this footnote for clarity's sake, since the Debtors tend to misconstrue, and twist Mr. Shanks's words/intentions. This is also included for judicial economy, as conversion and unjust enrichment are quite similar.

<sup>174</sup> To be clear, Mr. Shanks is not necessarily making a claim for any/all of the listed damages. They are simply listed to convey the harm that Mr. Shanks suffered due to the Debtor's negligent actions. And Mr. Shanks does not intend to (but reserves all rights to, in case it is necessary) pursue punitive damages.

inequitable and unjust to permit the Debtors' bankruptcy estates to continue to retain Mr. Shanks's assets.

Here, Celsius was unjustly enriched when—without any **contractual right** to do so, by selling off Mr. Shanks collateral to pay of the balance on his loan when Mr. Shanks was trying to utilize current stable coins on hand to pay off the loan. In less than 30 days later, after liquidating Mr. Shanks's collateral, Celsius paused all liquidations of loans and margin calls. In the absence of any equitable interest in the coins—it wrongfully liquidated Mr. Shanks's cryptocurrency charged him for 6 months of interest and a 3% administrative fee. This could have been avoided by Celsius had they provided clear instructions to all of their employees on how to resolve his outstanding loan balance and others issues, no contract existed between Mr. Shanks and Celsius, since according to the terms of service, the contract **terminated** bar a few survival provisions and because Celsius **materially breached** it. Celsius had **no** more of a **contractual right** to do anything with the collateral coins since they created the impossibility for Mr. Shanks's to take action. After realizing this 30 days later putting into actions a pause that could have prevented damages to M.r Shanks.

To the extent that Celsius has continued to hold, use, commingle, stake, or hypothecate coins in which it held no **right or title**, its actions not only constitute **conversion** of Mr. Shanks's property<sup>175</sup> and an infringement on Mr. Shanks's rights, including property rights, but also violate state law and/or regulations in various states, including the state of Colorado (of which Mr. Shanks is a resident of) For example, New York prohibits any person from engaging “in any virtual currency business activity” **without a license** (and Celsius seems to lack licenses for *basically everything*). *See* 23 CRR-NY 200.3. “Virtual currency business activity” is defined to include,

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<sup>175</sup> A claim for conversion exists where “the defendant acted without authorization, defendant exercised

dominion or right of ownership over property belonging to the plaintiff, plaintiff has made a demand for the property, and that demand has been refused.” *Lagemann v. Spence*, 2020 WL 5754800, at \*10 (S.D.N.Y. May 18, 2020), report and recommendation adopted, 2020 WL 7384009 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 16, 2020) (citation omitted). Conversion claims apply to cryptocurrency

among other things, “**storing, holding, or maintaining custody or control** of virtual currency on behalf of others.” 23 CRR-NY 200.2(q)(2). Celsius, which does not have a New York virtual currency license (also known as a BitLicense), is violating New York regulation by storing, holding, and maintaining control of cryptocurrency (*purportedly*, since Mr. Shanks does not want them to hold/store it for him, and is more than capable of doing it himself) on behalf of Mr. Shanks (This is relevant because the contract is/was governed by New York law for some reason, since Celsius was banned from operating in New York). Celsius is similarly violating laws or regulations in the other so-called “Prohibited States”

In equity and good conscience, Celsius ought not to retain Mr. Shanks’s property under these circumstances.

In addition to Celsius’ **unjust enrichment**, there was an implied, and contractually written promise by Celsius that, once Mr. Shanks requested to close his “loan” account, he would no longer be subject to any (relevant<sup>176</sup>) contractual agreement once Celsius refused to perform so all previously agreed contractual terms between Celsius and himself were ended. In effect, Celsius would respect Mr. Shanks’s **property rights**. Celsius instead **blatantly** violated those rights and denied Mr. Shanks access to **his own property**—even though *after* the **material breach** of contract, the *entire* contract, including all of the clauses named in Section 35, was voided. In essence, the Debtors committed an act of

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<sup>176</sup> There are various clauses that are supposed to be in effect after an account closure, as seen in Section 35 of the contract, but none of them are relevant, nor do they allow Celsius to have **any** sort of control over

Mr. Shanks's assets. They are "Sections 16 (Taxes), 25 (Indemnification), 26 (Disclaimer of Warranty), 27 (Disputes, Binding Individual Arbitration, and Class Actions and Class Arbitrations Waiver), 28 (Our Ownership of the Services and Celsius IP), 30 (Waiver) and 33 (Governing Law and Venue)"

conversion, by taking Mr. Shanks's property and making it purportedly property of the estate. If the breach of contract did not occur, then the entirety of the contract bar the irrelevant terms listed in Section 35, **terminated**. *After the material breach of contract, Mr. Shanks never granted/re-granted Celsius the contractual right to suspend/limit access to his account or any contractual rights for them to do anything with his assets.* On the contrary, Mr. Shanks informed Celsius vice email *many times* that if they liquidated his assets they would be held legally liable and that they created the situation of impossibility of paying off the loan by pausing/freezing all actions needed to resolve the issue. Had Celsius given Mr. Shanks limited access to his accounts he could have met the requirements of the loan pay off and all the collateral would have been placed in his "custody" account. Accordingly, Mr. Shanks's coins in his account are subject to a constructive trust, if they are not under an express trust under the contract terms (such as "*Custody*").

The Debtors ended up holding Mr. Shanks's assets in an express or constructive trust once they **materially breached** the contract (and even if the contract was *not* breached, the assets were still held in a constructive trust). "Thus, courts have concluded that property which a **debtor holds in trust (express or constructive) for another does not become property of the estate when the debtor files for bankruptcy**<sup>179</sup>." *In re Edison Bros., Inc.*, 243 B.R. 231, 235 (Bankr. D. Del. 2000) (citing *In re Columbia Gas Systems, Inc.*, 997 F.2d 1039, 1059 (3d Cir.1993)) ("**Congress clearly intended the exclusion created by section 541(d) to include not only funds held in express trust, but also funds held in constructive trust**<sup>180</sup>"); see also *In re Flanagan*, 503 F.3d 171, 180 (2d Cir.2007) ("The effect of a constructive trust in bankruptcy is profound. While the bankrupt estate is defined very broadly under § 541(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy

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<sup>179</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>180</sup> Emphasis added.

Code to include all legal or equitable interests of the debtor, any property that the debtor holds in constructive trust for another is excluded from the estate pursuant to § 541(d)<sup>181</sup>....”).

And the Supreme Court has found that property held in a trust, is not property of the estate. *See United States v. Whiting Pools, Inc*<sup>182</sup>., (“Congress plainly excluded property of others held by the debtor in trust at the time of the filing of the petition.”).

### **RESERVATION OF RIGHTS**

I reserve any and all rights, including but not limited to the right to amend this Adversary Proceeding. Nothing in this Adversary Proceedings is intended or should be construed as (a) an admission as to the validity of any claim against Mr. Shanks, (b) a waiver of Mr. Shanks’s rights to dispute any particular claim on any grounds, (c) a promise or requirement to pay any particular claim, (d) an implication or admission that any particular claim is of a type specified or defined in this Adversary Proceeding, or any cited documents or any order granting the relief requested by this Adversary Proceeding, (e) a waiver or limitation of Mr. Shanks’ rights under the Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable law, or (f) a concession by Mr. Shanks that any liens (contractual, common law, statutory, or otherwise) satisfied pursuant to this Adversary Proceeding are valid, and Mr. Shanks expressly reserves his rights to contest the extent, validity, or perfection or seek avoidance of all such liens.

### **CONCLUSION**

Once Celsius **materially breached** the contract it had signed with Mr. Shanks (on June 14th, 15th, and 16<sup>th</sup> 2022, among other dates), the Debtors were holding

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<sup>181</sup> Emphasis added.

<sup>182</sup> 462 U.S. 198, 205 n.10 (1983).

assets of the Plaintiff that they had no legal right/no legal title to hold, and yet they *continue* to hold his assets. *And even if* the contract was *not* **materially breached**, then the Debtors still do not have the right to have held, and continue to hold, Mr. Shanks's assets since it clearly and **unambiguously** states in the contract that after the account is closed, the contract (bar a few irrelevant provisions) terminates. Among the sections that terminate are the ones that allow Celsius to refuse Mr. Shanks to withdraw his own assets.

### **REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

1. Mr. Shanks requests that Your Honor rules that his assets are **not** a part of the estate as defined under section 541(d) of the Bankruptcy Code.
2. Mr. Shanks requests that Your Honor order the Debtors to compensate Mr. Shanks for the assets with USD (for whatever the value of the assets is right before the check is written) + a 5% premium due to the high volatility of crypto and the various fees associated with repurchasing his assets.
3. Mr. Shanks also requests that the Debtors be ordered to pay all of Mr. Shanks's expenses<sup>183</sup> incurred in the filing of this lawsuit, such as filing fees, transportation, etc, along with any gains from the assets since the bankruptcy filing such as rewards from staked ETH, interest/yield earned and the airdropped<sup>184</sup> WETH<sup>185</sup>, and any other airdrops that were either delivered, or if the snapshot was taken between the breach of contract, and when the assets are returned to

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<sup>183</sup> "Sunk costs" can be recovered: See *In re Apollo Air Passenger Computer Reservation Sys. (CRS)*, 720 F. Supp. 1068, 1076 (S.D.N.Y. 1989).

<sup>184</sup> A Airdrop refers to what is effectively a gift of a cryptocurrency to a wallet that holds tokens that qualify for the Airdrop.

<sup>185</sup>WETH is a fork of ETH, <https://coinmarketcap.com/currencies/ethereum-pow/>

Mr. Shanks's custody, or the USD value is paid out. The WETH<sup>186</sup> *should* be paid out in the USD value at the highest point<sup>187</sup> that Mr. Shanks would have been able to sell it at, if the Debtors did not wrongfully hold onto his assets. WETH's value has significantly decreased and Mr. Shanks was harmed due to Celsius holding it during the time and depriving him of the ability to sell it.

4. Mr. Shanks also respectfully requests compensation for direct damages stemming from Celsius/the Debtor's actions.
5. Mr. Shanks respectfully requests that for avoidance of further issues and doubt, this is ruled a non-preferential payment. This is because Mr. Shanks had no insider information, including any about the bankruptcy filing and because section 547(c)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code<sup>188</sup> prohibits a debtor from seeking to avoid a potential preferential transfer to a particular transferee if the "aggregate value of all property" at issue is less than \$7,575 (the "Statutory Cap")."
6. Alternatively, Your Honor may simply rule that the assets are **not** property of the estate, and Mr. Shanks will have the highest priority claim (since it is not property of the estate), have his assets returned either in kind, or in USD<sup>189</sup>, along with other damages

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<sup>186</sup> WETH is an airdropped fork of ETH which was airdropped to all ETH holders.

<sup>187</sup> See *United States ex rel. Evergreen Pipeline Constr. Co. v. Merritt Meridian Construction Corp., et al*, 95 F.3d 153, 161 (2d Cir.1996)(quoting *Kenford Co. v. County of Erie*, 67 N.Y.2d 257, 261, 502 N.Y.S.2d 131, 493 N.E.2d 234 (N.Y.1986) (per curiam) ("Loss of future profits as damages for breach of contract have been permitted in New York under long-established and precise rules of law.")).

<sup>188</sup> According to the Debtor's themselves, page 6, paragraph 4:  
<https://cases.stretto.com/public/x191/11749/PLEADINGS/117490901228000000022.pdf>

<sup>189</sup> The USD value of the assets, at the time the check is written (and interest/airdrops, including any airdrops that occur at a later date, but the snapshot was taken during the time the Debtors were wrongfully holding Mr. Shanks's assets, etc) should be paid out to Mr. Shanks plus a 5% premium due to the volatility of cryptocurrencies, and to account for fees associated with repurchasing the cryptocurrencies. Along with compensation for all additional damages dealt to Mr. Shanks, including, but not limited to: expenses such as filing fees, transportation, etc.

caused by the Debtors to Mr. Shanks. The claim can be paid out at a later time when other claims (such as perhaps “Custody”/“Withhold”) are. Doing so would not require lifting the automatic stay.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, The Plaintiff respectfully requests as follows:

- (i) the grant of relief as set forth in the final paragraph of the Claim for Relief;
- (ii) the grant such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Fred M. Shanks

Fred M. Shanks *ProSe*

Colorado Spring,

Colorado, USA

May 15th, 2023

**Exhibit A:**

**DECLARATION OF FRED M. SHANKS IN SUPPORT OF FRED M. SHANKS' ADVERSARY PROCEEDINGS**

I, Fred M Shanks, hereby declare under penalty of perjury:

1. I make this declaration based upon my personal knowledge. If I were called upon to testify, I could and would testify competently to the facts set forth herein.
2. I am a non-insider customer of Celsius, with no prior/insider knowledge of the bankruptcy or “Pause.”
3. On June 14th, 2022, I instructed Celsius to there was an issue with my account preventing me from accomplishing any financial obligation with my “loan” account by transferring/swapping to meet the required demands by Celsius.
4. On June 14th, 2022, Celsius stating they had no knowledge of accounts of being paused
5. . On June 15th, 2022, Celsius acknowledge all accounts had been paused
6. On June 15<sup>th</sup> Celsius Acknowledged Ticket number 1009729 was active in regards to closing out my loan
7. On June 15th, 2022, Celsius breached<sup>190</sup> the contract<sup>191</sup> they had signed with me by refusing to transfer/swap the required coins to close the account as *required*<sup>192</sup> by the contract, which caused them to lose any title rights that they may have had to hold onto my assets.
8. On June 18th, 2022, Celsius liquidated my loan without my permission after I had made numerous attempts to prevent this from occurring by trying to work with the customer support to utilize current on hand crypto stable coins in my earn account.

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<sup>191</sup> See **Exhibit F** <https://celsius.network/terms-of-use> for the contract.

<sup>192</sup> Added for emphasis, also see section 19, B. of the contract.

9. I currently have cryptocurrency assets in a “Earn” and “Custody” account that were frozen there when Celsius instituted the “Pause.”

10. The value of the cryptocurrency assets both currently, and as of the time of both my instructions to close the “loan” account, and the entire time since, is/was above \$137,000.

11. On July 13<sup>th</sup> Celsius had paused liquidation and margin call other account holders activities. Please note that these measures may change over time. In the coming days, Celsius will be updating its processes and related communications to reflect these changes.

12. On July 13<sup>th</sup> also provided the following guidance: “How do I pay off my loan in stablecoins? You can close a loan with stablecoins through the Celsius Mobile App. To do this, you will need to have the principal repayment amount in eligible stablecoins available in your: Earn Account: If you are a non-US customer. Custody Account: If you are a US customer.” All actions I was attempting to accomplish in June utilizing the customer support.

13. I do not have any outstanding loans in the Borrow Program now due to premature liquidation by Celsius on June 18<sup>th</sup> 2022

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that to the best of my knowledge and recollection the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed:

Fred M. Shanks *Pro Se*

/s/Daniel A. Shanks

Tampa, Florida, USA  
March 9th, 2023,





**Exhibit E:** (unmodified):



**Tuesday, April 12th, 2022**

Dear Celsians,

Today, we are writing to give our community advance notice of upcoming changes, which will go into effect on April 15, 2022. These changes provide a path forward for our users in the United States to continue holding coins and earning rewards with Celsius.

As we previously have acknowledged, Celsius has been working closely with regulators around the world. It is our intention to be as transparent with our community as possible. More specifically, we have been in ongoing discussions with United States regulators regarding our Earn product.

As a result, there will be changes to the way our Earn product will work for users based in the United States.

**Here's how these changes impact you:**

- **All coins transferred to Celsius by users in the United States prior to April 15, 2022 will continue to earn rewards. Those existing coins will continue to earn rewards from April 15th and onward, for as long as they remain in their Earn accounts.**
- **On April 15, 2022, Celsius will be launching a new Custody solution for users in the United States.** Your Custody account will serve as the centerpiece of

your home for crypto, providing a secure way to navigate across Celsius' products, including store, access, borrow, spend, earn and grow.

- **New transfers made by non-accredited investors in the United States will be held in their new Custody accounts and will not earn rewards.** Non-accredited investors can continue to swap, borrow, and transfer within their Custody accounts based on their local jurisdiction.
- All coins posted as collateral against a loan that is opened prior to April 15, 2022, will be returned to their Earn accounts when the loan is repaid. Those coins will resume earning rewards for as long as they remain in their Earn accounts.
- **Verified accredited investors in the United States will be able to add new coins into their Earn accounts to earn rewards.** For additional information on how to become an accredited investor, contact us at <https://celsius.network/customer-care> or [read more](#).
- Users located outside of the United States will be unaffected by these changes. They will continue to have access to all of the products and services available to them prior to these changes.
- Watch our [Custody tutorial video](#) to learn more.

Celsius will never stop advocating for financial freedom and we thank our community for their ongoing support. We will continue to provide updates as we engage with regulators and ensure the delivery of our services to our users globally.

If you have questions or require additional assistance, contact us at 1-866-HODL-NOW (1-866-463-5669). Our Customer Care Center is available Monday - Saturday, from 10AM - 11PM EST or contact us at <https://celsius.network/customer-care>

Sincerely,

The Celsius Team

**Exhibit F**<sup>194</sup>:

# Terms of Use

**Last Revised: April 14, 2022**

## 1. Introduction

Celsius Network LLC and its Affiliates (collectively, “**we**,” “**our**,” “**us**”, or “**Celsius**” ) provide the following Terms of Use that, as they may be modified from time to time by Celsius in its sole discretion (the “**Terms**”) apply to our users (“**you**”or “**User(s)**”) and govern each User’s access to, and use of, Celsius’ products and services as well as our mobile and web-based application(s), our website(s), any software, programs, documentation, tools, hardware, internet-based services, components, and any updates (including software maintenance, service information, help content, bug fixes or maintenance releases) provided to you by Celsius, directly or indirectly, through our mobile application, our website, or any other online services we provide (each a “Service,” and collectively the “**Services**”).

**PLEASE CAREFULLY REVIEW THESE TERMS BEFORE USING, OR  
CONTINUING TO USE, ANY OF CELSIUS’ SERVICES. THE TERMS  
INCLUDE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP**

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<sup>194</sup> It should be noted that specific, important sections have been highlighted, and are not shown this way outside of this document.

WITH CELSIUS, INCLUDING MANDATORY ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES BETWEEN YOU AND CELSIUS INSTEAD OF CLASS ACTIONS OR JURY TRIALS THE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED SOLELY FOR USE BY YOU, AND YOUR USE OF THE SERVICES IS EXPRESSLY CONDITIONED ON YOUR CONSENT TO, AND COMPLIANCE WITH, THE TERMS. BY ACCESSING OR USING OUR SERVICES, YOU AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE TERMS. IF YOU DO NOT AGREE TO ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THESE TERMS YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY STOP USING THE SERVICES. IN ADDITION, OUR [PRIVACY POLICY](#) IS INCORPORATED INTO THE TERMS IN ITS ENTIRETY. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO READ THE TERMS CAREFULLY AND USE THEM TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF DIGITAL ASSETS**

THE TREATMENT OF DIGITAL ASSETS IN YOUR CELSIUS ACCOUNT MAY HAVE CHANGED DEPENDING ON THE JURISDICTION IN WHICH YOU RESIDE AND WHETHER CELSIUS' CUSTODY SERVICE (SEE SECTION 4(B) BELOW) IS AVAILABLE TO YOU. PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING TERMS CAREFULLY SO THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THESE CHANGES AND CAN MAKE INFORMED FINANCIAL DECISIONS.

**BEGINNING APRIL 15, 2022 (THE "MODIFICATION DATE"), THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL APPLY:**

## **TERMS APPLICABLE TO ALL USERS RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES**

1. IF YOU RESIDE IN THE UNITED STATES AND HAVE ACCESS TO CELSIUS' CUSTODY SERVICE VIA YOUR CELSIUS ACCOUNT, ANY ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSET TRANSFERRED TO YOUR CELSIUS ACCOUNT ON OR AFTER THE MODIFICATION DATE WILL BE INITIALLY TRANSFERRED TO A CUSTODY WALLET AS PART OF THE CUSTODY SERVICE.
2. DIGITAL ASSETS HELD IN A CUSTODY WALLET WILL NOT EARN REWARDS THROUGH CELSIUS' EARN SERVICE (SEE SECTION 4(D) BELOW).
3. ANY ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSET THAT YOU LOANED TO CELSIUS THROUGH THE EARN SERVICE PRIOR TO THE MODIFICATION DATE WILL CONTINUE TO EARN REWARDS PURSUANT TO THE TERMS HEREIN, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ANY SUCH ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSET IS THEREAFTER USED IN A SERVICE OTHER THAN THE EARN SERVICE (E.G., THE SWAP SERVICE, CELPAY SERVICE, BORROW SERVICE, OR VOLUNTARILY MOVED TO THE CUSTODY SERVICE) OR OTHERWISE WITHDRAWN FROM YOUR CELSIUS ACCOUNT (EACH AN "EARN SERVICE TERMINATION EVENT").

## **TERMS APPLICABLE TO NON-ACCREDITED U.S. USERS**

1. IF YOU RESIDE IN THE UNITED STATES AND ARE NOT REGISTERED WITH CELSIUS AS ACCREDITED INVESTORS (A "NON-ACCREDITED U.S. USER") ANY ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSET THAT IS SUBJECT TO AN EARN SERVICE TERMINATION EVENT WILL NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE EARN SERVICE THEREAFTER; SUCH ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSET, HOWEVER, MAY BE USED IN CELSIUS' OTHER SERVICES SUBJECT TO THE TERMS HEREIN.
2. IF YOU ARE A NON-ACCREDITED U.S. USER, ANY DIGITAL ASSET TRANSFERRED TO CELSIUS ON OR AFTER THE

**MODIFICATION DATE WILL NOT EARN REWARDS AND NOT  
HAVE ACCESS TO THE EARN SERVICE.**

**TERMS APPLICABLE TO ACCREDITED U.S. USERS**

- 1. IF YOU RESIDE IN THE UNITED STATES AND ARE REGISTERED WITH CELSIUS AS AN ACCREDITED INVESTOR (AN “ACCREDITED U.S. USER”), YOU SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO THE EARN SERVICE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS HEREIN.**
- 2. IF YOU ARE AN ACCREDITED U.S. USER AND HAVE ACCESS TO THE CUSTODY SERVICE VIA YOUR CELSIUS ACCOUNT, ANY ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSET TRANSFERRED TO CELSIUS ON OR AFTER THE MODIFICATION DATE WILL INITIALLY BE TRANSFERRED TO A CUSTODY WALLET, BUT MAY THEREAFTER BE USED IN THE EARN SERVICE AT YOUR DISCRETION.**
- 3. IF YOU ARE AN ACCREDITED U.S. USER AND DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE CUSTODY SERVICE VIA YOUR CELSIUS ACCOUNT, ANY ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSET TRANSFERRED TO CELSIUS ON OR AFTER THE MODIFICATION DATE WILL BE INITIALLY TRANSFERRED TO THE EARN SERVICE AND CONSTITUTE A LOAN TO CELSIUS.**
- 4. PROVIDED THAT YOU CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN YOUR STATUS WITH CELSIUS AS AN ACCREDITED U.S. USER, YOUR ABILITY TO USE THE EARN SERVICE SHALL CONTINUE WITH RESPECT TO ALL ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSETS IN YOUR CELSIUS ACCOUNT.**

**TERMS APPLICABLE TO USERS RESIDING OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES**

- 1. IF YOU RESIDE OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES, YOU SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO THE EARN SERVICE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS HEREIN.**

2. **ANY ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSET THAT YOU LOANED TO CELSIUS THROUGH THE EARN SERVICE PRIOR TO THE MODIFICATION DATE, WILL CONTINUE TO EARN REWARDS.**
3. **ANY ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSET TRANSFERRED TO CELSIUS WILL BE INITIALLY TRANSFERRED TO THE EARN SERVICE AND CONSTITUTE A LOAN FROM YOU TO CELSIUS.**

Please take further notice that Celsius may modify the Terms at any time and in its sole discretion by posting the revised Terms on the Celsius website. You shall be bound by such modifications effective immediately upon posting. It is your responsibility to review these Terms prior to each use of the Services.

Celsius reserves the right to implement, change, modify, or increase any fee, rates or other related cost in connection with your Celsius Account or the use of any of the Services at any time. In the event a fee applies to you, we will notify you of the pricing of the fee prior to your providing authorization to complete the subject transaction or transfer. By accepting the Terms you hereby agree to pay all fees associated with or incurred by your use of the Celsius Account or any of the Services.

The Services provided in connection with specific Eligible Digital Assets listed on Appendix A are provided by the Affiliate **Celsius EU UAB**, a limited liability company incorporated in Lithuania.

## **2. Definitions**

Capitalized terms shall have the meanings assigned to them in these Terms, unless the context requires otherwise.

**“Account” or “Celsius Account”** means a User’s designated user account on the Celsius website or mobile application, allowing a User to access and use the Services, view the User’s balance of Eligible Digital Assets held in custody on the User’s behalf or loaned by the User to Celsius, and any rewards gained on loaned Eligible Digital Assets, and manage the User’s personal information and profile. **YOUR CELSIUS ACCOUNT IS NOT A BANK ACCOUNT, DEPOSIT ACCOUNT, SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, CHECKING ACCOUNT, OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF ASSET ACCOUNT AND SHOULD NOT BE CHARACTERIZED AS A BANKING PRODUCT OR SERVICE. THE USE OF TERMS SUCH AS “ACCOUNT,” “ACCOUNT BALANCE,” “WITHDRAW” AND SIMILAR LANGUAGE IN CONNECTION WITH THE EARN SERVICE AND THE BORROW SERVICE (SEE FURTHER SECTIONS 4(D) AND 4(E) BELOW, RESPECTIVELY) DOES NOT IMPLY OR ESTABLISH, AND SHALL NOT BE TAKEN TO SUGGEST, ANY FORM OF CUSTODY RELATIONSHIP, AND SUCH LANGUAGE IS USED HEREIN AS TERMS OF CONVENIENCE ONLY IN REFERRING TO USERS’ BORROWING OR LENDING OF DIGITAL ASSETS TO OR FROM CELSIUS AS PART OF THE EARN SERVICE AND BORROW SERVICE, AND CELSIUS’ OBLIGATION TO TRANSFER DIGITAL ASSETS TO USERS UPON THE TERMINATION OF SUCH LOANS OR REPAYMENT OF SUCH BORROWING IN CONNECTION WITH THESE SERVICES.**

**“Affiliate”** means an entity that owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is or under common control or ownership with a party, where control is defined as the direct or indirect power to direct or cause the direction of the

management and policies of such party, whether through ownership of voting securities, by contract, or otherwise.

**“AML”** stands for Anti-Money Laundering, which means a set of procedures, laws, and regulations that are intended to stop the practice of generating income through illegal actions.

**“Blockchain”** means a system in which records of transactions made in Digital Assets are maintained across several computers that are linked in a peer-to-peer network.

**“CEL Token”** means Celsius’ native token.

**“Custody Wallet”** means a Virtual Wallet where all Eligible Digital Assets held therein are custodial assets maintained either by us or by a third party institution or other entity selected by Celsius (a **“Third Party Custodian”**).

**“Digital Asset”** means a digital representation of value in which encryption techniques are used to regulate the generation of digital units and verify the transfer of assets, operating independently from a central bank.

**“Eligible Digital Assets”** means the types of Digital Assets we may choose to designate for inclusion under one or more of the Services from time to time, which are subject to change and/or limitation in our sole discretion, based on business, regulatory and/or other considerations.

**“Fiat,”** when used in reference to money or currency, means the coin and paper money of a country that is designated as legal tender, circulates, and is customarily used and accepted as a medium of exchange in the country of issuance.

**“KYC”** stands for Know Your Customer (or Client), which means the process of a business verifying the identity of its customers or clients and assessing potential risks of illegal intentions for the business relationship.

**“Pegging”** is the practice of fixing the exchange rate of one currency to the value of another currency or asset.

**“Stablecoin”** means a Digital Asset that is Pegged to a Fiat currency.

**“Virtual Wallet”** or **“Virtual Wallet Address”** means an on-Blockchain virtual address in which Digital Assets can be held and transferred.

### **3. Eligibility and Proof of Identity**

In order to use the Services you must first register for a Celsius Account.

In order to be eligible to access and use the Services, you must (i) be eighteen (18) years of age or older, (ii) have the legal ability to enter into and be bound by these Terms, (iii) comply with these Terms, and (iv) register for

and maintain an active and valid Celsius Account. Celsius is not obligated to accept any application from any applicant and has sole and absolute discretion to accept or reject applications to create Celsius Accounts.

The Services are not available where prohibited by law or by Celsius policy, as updated from time to time; currently, such places include, but are not necessarily limited to, the countries of Iran, North Korea, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Cuba, or any other country against which the United States, the United Kingdom or the European Union imposes financial sanctions or embargoes.

Be advised that in some jurisdictions, due to regulatory considerations, Celsius may not provide part or all of the Services, which may include support for some Eligible Digital Assets or the CEL Token.

Due to changing regulatory requirements and interpretations in the Digital Assets markets, Celsius may use its sole and absolute discretion to, among other things, reject specific applications to open Celsius Accounts, prohibit use of part or all of the Services and/or close, freeze or suspend Celsius Accounts, where Celsius, in its sole and absolute discretion, has determined that regulatory or policy reasons prevent Celsius from being able to offer its Services.

Celsius is subject to AML, KYC, and U.S. sanction requirements under the Bank Secrecy Act (“**BSA**”), Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing

Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act (“**USA PATRIOT Act**”), and the Office of Foreign Assets Control (“**OFAC**”).

Under applicable AML and OFAC rules, Celsius is obligated to maintain certain information about you, including User records and transaction history, for five years (seven years for Users residing in the state of New York), or a longer period as may be required under applicable laws. Under certain circumstances, Celsius is required to report to the competent authorities of any unusual transactions, or of any suspicion it may have that any User might be involved in any financial crime or illicit activity.

Celsius is required to comply with applicable AML and KYC requirements before and after you register for a Celsius Account. When you register for a Celsius Account, we will ask for documentation and information, including but not limited to copies of your government-issued identification document (e.g. Passport, driver’s license). For corporate Celsius Accounts, we may require identification information related to the directors, officers, authorized representatives, or equity owners of the business. We may also gather and use information about you from third parties, to help us confirm your identity, perform our AML/KYC checks and/or determine your access to the Services. You represent and warrant at all times that any and all information provided by you to us is true, accurate, and not misleading in any respect. If any such information changes, it is your obligation to provide the new information to us as soon as practicable following such change.

## 4. Services

### A. Celsius Account

Your Celsius Account allows you to view your balances in connection with the Services provided to you by Celsius and access the Services and conduct certain transactions online. You are solely responsible for the activities under your Celsius Account and for securing your Celsius Account IDs, passwords, hints, or any other codes that you use to access your Celsius Account and the Services. Celsius is not responsible for any loss or compromise of your access information and/or your personal information, or for any loss that you may sustain due to compromise of your access information and/or personal information.

**CELSIUS MAY RESTRICT SERVICES IN CERTAIN JURISDICTIONS DUE TO APPLICABLE LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND BUSINESS CONSIDERATIONS, AT ITS SOLE DISCRETION. ANY SERVICES AVAILABLE TO YOU WILL BE THOSE ACCESSIBLE VIA YOUR CELSIUS ACCOUNT. IF YOU RESIDE IN THE UNITED STATES, THE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO YOU MAY DEPEND ON YOUR STATUS AS AN ACCREDITED INVESTOR. CELSIUS MAY REQUEST FROM YOU PROOF OF ACCREDITED INVESTOR STATUS PERIODICALLY OR AT ANY TIME, IN CELSIUS' SOLE DISCRETION. THE FAILURE OF A USER TO TIMELY RESPOND TO SUCH A REQUEST MAY RESULT IN THE TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT LOSS OF THAT USER'S ABILITY TO USE A SERVICE.**

**CELSIUS IS NOT LIABLE TO ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE RESULTING FROM  
SUCH TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT LOSS OF USE TO ANY SERVICE.**

We will not be liable for following any instruction we receive through your Celsius Account, even if it was not authorized by you, or if it was entered by mistake or is otherwise inaccurate. To verify the authenticity of any instruction we receive through your Celsius Account, at our sole discretion we may require your signature or identification in any form we deem necessary, and we may accept digital images and electronic signatures for documents that need to be signed. You agree to reimburse us (and we may charge you or deduct from the balance of your Celsius Account) for all claims, costs, losses, and damages, including reasonable attorneys' fees, that result from our following instructions we receive through your Celsius Account to take any action related to your Celsius Account.

Your Celsius Account is not a bank account, deposit account, savings accounts, checking account, or any other type of asset account and should not be characterized as a banking product or service. All Eligible Digital Asset balances on your Celsius Account represent Digital Assets that are either (1) held in your Custody Wallet by Celsius or a Third Party Custodian, (2) loaned by you to Celsius, or (3) posted to Celsius as collateral and, therefore, owned, held and/or controlled by Celsius (under the applicable Service, as further detailed herein), and subject to Celsius' obligation to deliver such Digital Assets back to you upon the termination of the applicable Service.

Celsius may freeze, suspend or terminate your Celsius Account at any time in its sole discretion, in addition to taking any action and seeking any remedy it may be entitled to in law or in equity, including if Celsius suspects your involvement in any fraudulent activity of any kind or other misuse of the Services, provision by you of inaccurate or misleading information, or your involvement in any money laundering or other financial crime related to you or your Celsius Account.

## **B. Custody**

Our custody (“**Custody**”) Service allows you to store Eligible Digital Assets in a Custody Wallet accessible through your Celsius Account. **PLEASE NOTE THAT WHEN YOU USE OUR CUSTODY SERVICE TO STORE ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSETS YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A FINANCING FEE, REWARDS OR FINANCIAL COMPENSATION OF ANY KIND ON ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSETS SO STORED.**

When you use the Custody Service, you understand and agree that Celsius may act as the custodian or we may use a Third Party Custodian to provide the Custody Service. Celsius will inform, update, and/or obtain your consent in advance, as applicable, in the event that a Third Party Custodian is used to provide the Custody Service to you. Celsius will use reasonable skill in the selection, appointment, and periodic review of Third Party Custodians. By using the Custody Service, you understand and agree to appoint Celsius or a Third Party Custodian selected by Celsius as your agent to store and secure

Eligible Digital Assets in a Custody Wallet, and perform other duties customarily performed by a custodian. You understand that the Custody Service may be performed by a custodian in a jurisdiction other than where you are domiciled. By using the Custody Service, you authorize Celsius to transfer your Eligible Digital Assets to a Third Party Custodian or Custodians as may be selected by Celsius, and to instruct and cause any such Third Party Custodian to transfer your Eligible Digital Assets to another Third Party Custodian or Custodians as may be selected by Celsius, or to Celsius, in each case without the need for any further notice to or consent from you, and consistent with providing the Custody Services as set forth herein.

Title to any of your Eligible Digital Assets in a Custody Wallet shall at all times remain with you and not transfer to Celsius. Celsius will not transfer, sell, loan or otherwise rehypothecate Eligible Digital Assets held in a Custody Wallet unless specifically instructed by you, except as required by valid court order, competent regulatory agency, government agency or applicable law. As title owner of assets, you bear all risk of loss. Celsius shall have no liability for any Digital Asset price fluctuations or any or all loss of Digital Assets.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Celsius may suspend your access to Services, including the Custody Service and your access to a Custody Wallet, in the event of market disruptions or periods of volatility. Celsius or a Third Party Custodian controls the private keys to the Blockchain addresses of all Custody Wallets. Celsius will use reasonable care and commercially reasonable efforts in connection with the Custody Service to store and secure Eligible Digital Assets in a Custody Wallet. You understand that your use of the Custody Service, whether provided by Celsius or a Third Party Custodian,

does not create a fiduciary relationship between you and Celsius or any Third Party Custodian. Neither Celsius nor any Third Party Custodian has any fiduciary duty to you. Celsius has no duty to inquire into, supervise, or determine the suitability of any transaction you initiate involving Eligible Digital Assets in a Custody Wallet. Eligible Digital Assets in a Custody Wallet may be comingled with the Eligible Digital Assets of other Users, and Celsius is under no obligation to return the actual Eligible Digital Assets initially transferred by you to a Custody Wallet, but will return Eligible Digital Assets of the identical type reflected in your Celsius Account at the time you request such a return. Celsius may provide information regarding the Eligible Digital Assets in a Custody Wallet to comply with any applicable law, regulation, rule, or request by law enforcement or government agencies.

Eligible Digital Assets held in a Custody Wallet are subject to the other provisions of these Terms, unless where expressly stated otherwise. Celsius retains the right to set-off any Eligible Digital Assets in a Custody Wallet against any obligations you may have to us. You understand and acknowledge that the legal treatment of Digital Assets remains unsettled and may vary depending on the jurisdiction in which you reside. In the event that you, Celsius or any Third Party Custodian becomes subject to an insolvency proceeding, it is unclear how your Digital Assets would be treated and what rights you would have to such Digital Assets. Celsius does not make any representation as to the likely treatment of Digital Assets in your Celsius Account, including those in a Custody Wallet, in the event that you, Celsius or any Third Party Custodian becomes subject to an insolvency proceeding whether in the U.S. or in any other jurisdiction. You explicitly understand and

acknowledge that the treatment of Digital Assets in the event of such an insolvency proceeding is unsettled, not guaranteed, and may result in a number of outcomes that are impossible to predict reliably, including but not limited to you being treated as an unsecured creditor and/or the total loss of any and all Digital Assets reflected in your Celsius Account, including those in a Custody Wallet.

Upon your instruction to Celsius to use one of the other Services detailed in this Section (such as, but not limited to, Swap, CelPay, and Borrow), or otherwise offered by Celsius, where such Services are available to you through your Account, the Eligible Digital Assets being used in such other Service may involve transferring your assets out of a Custody Wallet. Eligible Digital Assets that are transferred out of, or not held in, a Custody Wallet are not subject to the custody functions set forth in this Section.

Until further notice, the Custody Service will only be available in certain jurisdictions.

## **C. Swap**

### **i. Introduction to Swap Service**

Our Swap Service, if available to you, allows you to exchange one type of Eligible Digital Asset for another type of Eligible Digital Asset in your Celsius Account, provided that the exchange is of a Digital Asset pair supported by

Celsius (“**Supported Pair**”). Celsius may choose to add, remove, change, or impose any additional limits on Supported Pairs from time to time, in its sole discretion and without providing prior notice.

By using Celsius’ Swap Service, you will allow Celsius to exchange the type and amount of the Digital Asset in your Celsius Account that you choose to swap (the “**Swapped Assets**”) into the type of Digital Asset you choose to receive (the “**New Assets**”). The amount of New Assets to be received in exchange for the Swapped Assets is determined by the amount of Swapped Assets multiplied by the applicable conversion rate of the relevant Digital Asset pair (the “**Exchange Rate**”).

## ii. Exchange Rates

Celsius will use reasonable efforts to source the best rate for a Supported Pair across multiple venues. However, we cannot guarantee that the Exchange Rates offered on our platform would always be optimal, and you understand and acknowledge that Celsius is not under any obligation to provide the best rate for a Supported Pair. You further acknowledge that it is your responsibility to check if a better rate is available on another platform. In line with Celsius’ commitment to transparency, the Exchange Rates quoted may include an offset from the prevailing market rate (also known as “spread”) to mitigate both Celsius’ exposure to price volatility between the time the Exchange Rate is confirmed and the time the transaction is executed. The spread may be set by

Celsius and/or third party vendors working with Celsius to complete the Swap transaction.

Exchange Rates available on our platform are moment-in-time specific, and due to the volatility in crypto markets, change constantly and rapidly. An Exchange Rate is only final when you approve the transaction and it has been accepted and confirmed.

### **iii. Swap Transactions are Final**

All Swap transactions are final and irreversible once approved by you.

You should therefore carefully review the terms of each transaction before you approve it. Celsius will not be liable for any errors in your order. If you believe a transaction was not executed in accordance with your instructions, please contact [support@celsius.network](mailto:support@celsius.network).

We may reject or cancel a Swap transaction where we deem it reasonably necessary, e.g., where there was an error in the Exchange Rate or in the execution of the transaction, or where the quoted Exchange Rate is no longer available.

### **iv. Execution**

Each Swap transaction is entered into between you and Celsius (as buyer or seller, as applicable), and Celsius does not act as your broker, agent, or intermediary.

By entering into any Swap transaction, you hereby appoint Celsius or a Third Party Custodian to act as the custodian of the Swapped Assets for the purpose of exchanging those assets, and for the duration necessary to complete the exchange.

During periods of high volume, illiquidity, or volatility in the marketplace for any Digital Asset, the actual market rate at which trade is executed may be different from the prevailing rate indicated at the time of your order or trade. You acknowledge and agree that Celsius is not liable for any such price fluctuations. In the event of periods of high volume, illiquidity, or volatility in the marketplace for any Digital Asset or other market disruption of any kind or Force Majeure event (see further Section 34 below, “Force Majeure”), Celsius may suspend access to the Swap Service and/or prevent you from completing any actions via the Swap Service. Following any such event, you understand that prevailing market rates when trading resumes may differ significantly from the rates available prior to such event.

## **v. Representations and Warranties**

By using the Swap Service, you represent and warrant to Celsius that:

1. the information provided by you to Celsius, including, but not limited to, regarding your place of residency, is accurate and up-to-date;
2. you are using Celsius' Swap Service solely for your own personal purposes, and not on behalf of any other person or for business purposes;
3. you are aware of, and can withstand, the risks involved in holding, using and trading digital assets, and you have read and understood our [Risk Disclosure](#);
4. you will NOT use borrowed funds for the purpose of using our Swap Service, and particularly you shall NOT use funds borrowed from Celsius for such purpose;
5. you will be solely responsible for all tax reporting and payment obligations which may apply to you as a result of using the Swap Service;
6. your use of the Swap Service shall be at all times in full compliance with all laws and regulations applicable to you, and you shall not use it for any illegal purposes, including, but not limited to, activities involving financial crime, money laundering or terrorism financing, or the proceeds thereof.

Any breach of these representations and warranties by you shall constitute a breach of these Terms, and may result in, among other legal action, the termination of your Celsius Account.

#### **D. Earn Rewards**

Our Earn Service allows you to earn a financing fee from Celsius, referred to as "Rewards," in the form of Digital Assets (either in-kind, i.e., in the same Digital Asset you transfer, or in CEL Tokens, where permitted) in exchange for entering into open-ended loans of your Eligible Digital Assets to Celsius under the terms hereof. **If our Earn Service is available to you, upon your**

**election, you will lend your Eligible Digital Assets to Celsius and grant Celsius all rights and title to such Digital Assets, for Celsius to use in its sole discretion while using the Earn Service.**

The balance of Eligible Digital Assets loaned by you to Celsius, and any Rewards gained thereon (see further Section 12 below, “How Rewards are Calculated and Earned”) are visible via your Celsius Account. Once such Eligible Digital Assets are received by Celsius into your Earn balance, they shall be Celsius’ property, in every sense and for all purposes, and you will immediately start accruing Rewards on such Digital Assets in accordance with the terms hereof (unless explicitly provided for the purpose of being utilized for any other Service), and the corresponding amount (and kind) of Eligible Digital Assets shall be reflected in your Celsius Account balance. We reserve the right to reject entry into any loan transaction, and/or the right to repay any loan of Digital Asset already made, each at your expense.

You may terminate any loan to Celsius at any time, and request that Celsius return the borrowed Eligible Digital Assets and deliver any Rewards accrued from the Earn Service, by transferring such Eligible Digital Assets and Rewards to your external Virtual Wallet (in accordance with Section 11 below, “Withdrawals”) or to the Custody Service, if available.

The Earn Service is not an investment program nor a speculative tool. Rather, you are earning Rewards as a financing fee on the loan of Eligible Digital Assets you have transferred to Celsius in connection with the Earn Service,

and in accordance with the rates published by Celsius from time to time, pursuant to these Terms.

**AS FURTHER EXPLAINED IN SECTION 1 ABOVE, BEGINNING APRIL 15, 2022, THE EARN SERVICE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR ANY DIGITAL ASSET TRANSFERRED TO CELSIUS OR USED IN A SERVICE OTHER THAN THE EARN SERVICE AFTER THAT DATE BY A NON-ACCREDITED U.S. USER. ANY ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSET LOANED TO CELSIUS THROUGH THE EARN SERVICE PRIOR TO APRIL 15, 2022, INCLUDING SUCH ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSETS OF NON-ACCREDITED U.S. USERS, WILL CONTINUE TO EARN REWARDS THROUGH THE EARN SERVICE PURSUANT TO THE TERMS HEREIN, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS SUCH ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSET IS THEREAFTER USED IN A SERVICE OTHER THAN THE EARN SERVICE (E.G., THE SWAP SERVICE, CELPAY SERVICE, BORROW SERVICE, OR VOLUNTARILY MOVED TO THE CUSTODY SERVICE) OR OTHERWISE WITHDRAWN FROM THE APPLICABLE USER'S CELSIUS ACCOUNT. THE EARN SERVICE WILL REMAIN FULLY AVAILABLE TO ACCREDITED U.S. USERS OR USERS RESIDING OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**

#### **E. Borrow**

You may apply to borrow certain Fiat currencies or Stablecoins from an Affiliate of Celsius, as will be agreed between you and Celsius or its Affiliates in writing, against Eligible Digital Assets in your Celsius Account (each, a

“**Loan**”). If approved, such application shall be subject to a separate agreement to be entered into between you and the Celsius Affiliate (the “**Loan Agreement**”), and Celsius or its Affiliates shall hold the Digital Assets provided as collateral under the Loan Agreement for the benefit of the Lender subject to the terms hereof, including without limitation Sections 9, 10 and 13.

In no circumstances shall it be permissible for you to use the proceeds of such Loans to purchase additional Digital Assets through any third party fiat “on-ramp” service providers that may be integrated in or connected with the Celsius platform from time to time, and you represent and warrant that you will not do so. Celsius further does not recommend or encourage any use of borrowed funds for purchasing Digital Assets or making any financial investment. You represent that any use by you of the proceeds of Loans shall be in full compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, these Terms, and the applicable Loan Agreement, and you shall be solely responsible and liable for any breach of any of the foregoing.

Any Eligible Digital Assets you provide as collateral under a Loan Agreement shall not be eligible for another Service provided by Celsius at the same time, including the Earn Service, as set out above, and by entering into any Loan Agreement you explicitly authorize Celsius to deduct the amount of Eligible Digital Assets corresponding to the collateral amount from the applicable Service in your Celsius Account.

Celsius may in its sole discretion offer other forms of commercial arrangement under the Borrow Service, such as a sale and repurchase arrangement, based on its regulatory, business, or other considerations.

#### **F. CelPay**

CelPay is Celsius' proprietary Digital Asset tool for Celsius Users, which allows you to transfer ownership or assign your rights with Celsius, as applicable, in connection with selected Eligible Digital Assets to other registered Celsius Users (see further Section 15 below, "CelPay").

By entering into any CelPay transaction you explicitly authorize Celsius or its Affiliates to deduct such amounts of Eligible Digital Asset as you instruct us to transfer to another user from your Celsius Account, and to be added to the balance of the Celsius Account of such other User. Conversely, by accepting any CelPay transaction from another User you agree that the amounts of Eligible Digital Asset sent to you shall be added to the balance of your Celsius Account.

### **5. Celsius Account Types**

#### **A. Individual Celsius Account**

This Celsius Account is owned by only one natural person who is and will continue to be the only person authorized to take any action in the Celsius Account. By opening an Individual Celsius Account, you represent and warrant that you are and shall at all times continue to be the sole beneficial owner of the Celsius Account and user of all Services facilitated or generated therefrom.

## **B. Corporate Celsius Account**

This Celsius Account is owned by a corporation, unincorporated association, a company, a partnership, fiduciary, sole proprietorship, or other legally recognized group (interchangeably defined as an “**Entity**”) holding a Celsius Account in any capacity other than an individual capacity. An Entity can apply to open a Celsius Account through any natural person(s) who is duly authorized by the Entity to do so (an “**Authorized Representative**”).

Such Authorized Representative represents and agrees, on behalf of the Entity, as well as on his or her own behalf, that he or she:

1. is fully authorized to execute all documents or otherwise complete our requirements in his or her stated capacity;
2. has provided us all documents or other information necessary to demonstrate that authority; and
3. will provide other documents and complete other requirements as we may request from time to time.

We may refuse to recognize any such authorization if, in our reasonable judgment, it appears to be incomplete or improperly executed.

By opening a Corporate Celsius Account, the Authorized Representative represents and warrants on behalf of the Entity that the Entity is and shall at all times continue to be the sole beneficial owner of the Celsius Account and user of all Services facilitated or generated therefrom and that the ultimate beneficial owners of all assets and assets belonging to the Entity are as represented during the establishment of the Corporate Celsius Account. The Entity registered as holder of a Corporate Celsius Account, the ultimate beneficial owner(s) of such Entity and any Authorized Representative(s) shall each be responsible for updating Celsius immediately of any change in the details of the Entity, ultimate beneficial owner(s) and/or Authorized Representative(s), including any appointment or termination of the same, change of control in the Entity or change in the registration details of the Entity, and such persons shall be jointly and severally liable to Celsius for any breach of these Terms in connection with the Corporate Celsius Account.

### **C. Maximum Number of Accounts**

Each User is authorized to have a maximum of **one** Individual Celsius Account and **one** Corporate Account (such as in the case of a sole proprietorship) at any given time. Requests for additional accounts must be sent via email to [app@celsius.network](mailto:app@celsius.network). Celsius may deny a request for an additional account in its sole discretion and for any reason. Celsius may merge, freeze, suspend, or terminate any Account(s) in its sole discretion and for any reason, including to the extent Celsius reasonably believes any such Account(s) to be in breach of this policy.

## 6. Authorized Users

For both Individual and Corporate Celsius Accounts, we may follow any instructions regarding your Celsius Accounts provided that we reasonably believe such instructions are authorized by the Celsius Account holder, and we will not be held liable for following any instructions provided by a person designated or identified as an authorized User or Authorized Representative.

## 7. Account Balance

Your Celsius Account balance visible through the platform shall indicate, the balance of Eligible Digital Assets attributed to each Service, to the extent applicable and available. You can transfer additional Eligible Digital Assets to Celsius by transferring the same to the Virtual Wallet Address(es) provided in your Celsius Account (or as otherwise notified by us to you). Any Eligible Digital Asset received will be treated by us as being transferred to your Celsius Account beginning on the date and at the time stamped on the Blockchain confirmation.

If Celsius chooses to designate “wrapped” Digital Assets (i.e., Digital Assets Pegged to the value of the corresponding Digital Asset on its “native” Blockchain) for inclusion under one or more of the Services, any such Eligible Digital Assets that you transfer to Celsius may be repaid to you in, and reflected in your Celsius Account balance as, the corresponding native Eligible Digital Asset. In the event Celsius incurs any loss or damage as a

result of the Digital Assets that you transfer to Celsius being wrapped, such as, but not limited to, from the wrapped Digital Asset becoming De-Pegged from the value of the native Digital Asset, Celsius may recover such losses or damages from the Eligible Digital Assets in your Celsius Account pursuant to Section 9 of these Terms. Nothing herein shall oblige Celsius to accept “wrapped” Digital Assets, and it is your sole responsibility to make sure such “wrapped” Digital Assets are Supported Digital Assets prior to transferring them to your Celsius Account.

**It is your sole responsibility to make sure that Digital Assets you wish to transfer to Celsius are Eligible Digital Assets, and that your transfer of Eligible Digital Assets on the Blockchain is directed over the correct Blockchain and to the correct Virtual Wallet Address as provided to you by Celsius (which may differ from time to time and between different Digital Assets).**

**If you do not carefully follow these instructions, your Digital Assets may be irrevocably lost, and Celsius may not be able to assist you in retrieving them. Celsius will not be liable to you for any such loss and shall not be under any obligation to retrieve such Digital Assets.**

## **8. Ownership of Digital Assets**

You hereby represent and warrant to us that any Eligible Digital Asset transferred by you for the purpose of utilizing Celsius’ Services is owned by

you or that you are fully permitted to carry out transactions using such Eligible Digital Assets without restriction or limitation, and that your use of the Services is solely for your own account and benefit, and not on behalf of any other person or entity. You further represent and warrant that all such Eligible Digital Assets are free from any claims, indebtedness, liens, or third party interests.

## 9. Setoff and Security Interest Rights

You grant us a security interest in any and all Eligible Digital Assets using the Earn Service for debts, amounts owed, or liabilities incurred to us or any of our Affiliates by you or any of your Authorized Representatives, if any (“**Obligations**”). Obligations may include both secured and unsecured debts, and Obligations you owe individually or together with someone else, including Obligations under other transactions or agreements between you and us or any of our Affiliates.

We also may take or set off from any Digital Asset in your Celsius Account, including any of your Digital Assets using the Custody Service (i.e., in a Custody Wallet), or deduct from any obligations Celsius may have to you, any direct, indirect, and acquired Obligations that you owe us or our Affiliates. These rights are in addition to other rights we may have to take, transfer, or charge from any assets or balance in your Celsius Account for Obligations you owe us or our Affiliates pursuant to these Terms.

Your acceptance of these Terms serves as your consent to Celsius' asserting its security interest or exercising its right of setoff should any laws governing your Celsius Account require your consent. If the law restricts our ability to take, transfer, or setoff from any obligations to you, or if your Celsius Account balance is protected from attachment, levy, or legal process, you waive those conditions and limits to the full extent that you may do so by contract, and you authorize us to take any actions to offset your Obligations in your Celsius Account being used in the Earn Service.

We hereby agree that, to the extent permitted by applicable law, in the event that Celsius breaches its obligation under these Terms, you may set off assets or amounts we owe you with respect to your Celsius Account, against your Obligations. If the law restricts your ability to take, transfer, or setoff our obligations to you, or if they are protected from attachment, levy, or legal process, we waive those conditions and limits to the full extent that we may do so by contract, and we authorize you to apply our obligations to you to your Obligations.

## 10. Risk Disclosure

Before using any of Celsius' Services, you should ensure that you fully understand and can afford to undertake the risks involved. You should carefully read and make sure you understand our [Risk Disclosure](#) page, which lists some, but not all of the risks involved in holding, trading and using crypto assets generally, and using Celsius' services specifically. The risks listed

below and in our [Risk Disclosure](#) page are intended to provide you with a general outline of the risks involved, but cannot capture all such risks.

These Terms and your use of any of our Services do not create a fiduciary relationship between us and you; your Celsius Account is not a checking or savings account, and it is not covered by insurance against losses. Celsius has no duty to inquire into, supervise, or determine the suitability of any transaction you initiate involving Eligible Digital Assets in your Celsius Account. We may lend, sell, pledge, hypothecate, assign, invest, use, commingle or otherwise dispose of assets and Eligible Digital Assets that are not held in a Custody Wallet (if available to you) to counterparties or hold the Eligible Digital Assets with counterparties, and we will use our best commercial and operational efforts to prevent losses. By transferring Digital Assets to Celsius, or lending Eligible Digital Assets to Celsius while using the Earn Service, or otherwise using the Services, you will not be entitled to any profits or income Celsius may generate from any subsequent use of any Digital Assets (or otherwise), nor will you be exposed to any losses which Celsius may suffer as a result thereof. You agree and acknowledge that you are exposed to the possibility that Celsius may become unable to repay its obligations to you in part or in full, in which case any Digital Assets in your Celsius Account that are not using the Custody Service may be at risk of partial or total loss.

**ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSETS ARE NOT LEGAL TENDER. CELSIUS IS NOT A BANK OR DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION, AND YOUR CELSIUS ACCOUNT IS NOT A DEPOSIT ACCOUNT. ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSETS**

**REPRESENTED IN YOUR CELSIUS ACCOUNT ARE NOT HELD BY CELSIUS AS A FIDUCIARY, ARE NOT INSURED BY ANY PRIVATE OR GOVERNMENTAL INSURANCE PLAN (INCLUDING THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (FDIC) OR THE SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION (SIPC)), AND ARE NOT COVERED BY ANY COMPENSATION SCHEME. YOUR CELSIUS ACCOUNT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN INVESTMENT CONTRACT OR A SECURITY, IS NOT TRANSFERABLE AND MAY NOT BE TRADED, EXCHANGED OR SOLD TO ANY THIRD PARTY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**

Celsius does not provide any legal, tax or financial advice and you are strongly advised to obtain independent legal, tax or financial advice prior to making any financial decision, including buying, trading, holding, or using Digital Assets. There are significant risks associated with Digital Assets, and you are solely responsible to make sure you understand such risks and assess whether such risks are appropriate for you. Celsius does not make any offers, recommendations, or invitations for you to deal in Digital Assets or use any Services, and does not take into account your personal circumstances, financial situation, needs or goals. Before making any financial decision, you should carefully assess your financial situation and capacity, and only use funds that you can afford to lose. Before entering into any transaction or using any of the Services you should ensure that you understand and have made an independent assessment of the suitability and appropriateness of a transaction into which you are entering and the nature and extent of your exposure to risk of loss in light of your own objectives, financial and

operational resources, and other relevant circumstances. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Legislative and regulatory changes or actions at the state, federal, or international level may adversely affect the use, transfer, exchange, and value of Digital Assets. Transactions in Digital Assets may be irreversible, and, accordingly, losses due to fraudulent or accidental transactions may not be recoverable.

The value of Digital Assets may be derived from the continued willingness of market participants to exchange Digital Assets for Fiat currencies or other Digital Assets. If such willingness is abolished for any reason, this may result in the potential for a permanent and total loss of value of a particular Digital Asset.

The volatility and unpredictability of the price of Digital Assets may result in significant loss over a short period of time. The nature of Digital Assets may lead to an increased risk of fraud or cyber-attack, including rollback attacks or Blockchain reorganizations. The nature of Digital Assets means that any technological difficulties experienced by Celsius or third parties may limit, delay or prevent the access or use of Digital Assets and/or cause losses of Digital Assets. Although Celsius takes precautionary measures to protect against cyber threats, circumstances may arise where losses or damages are incurred.

In light of these risks, which are only some of the risks involved in using the Services and holding or trading in Digital Assets, and do not constitute an exhaustive list of such risks, you should carefully consider whether holding or trading Digital Assets in general and/or using our Services is suitable for you in light of your financial condition.

## **11. Withdrawals**

Subject to these Terms, for any of your Eligible Digital Assets that you elect to utilize in the Earn Service (if available to you), you have a call option on all loans made to Celsius to demand immediate, complete or partial repayment of any loan at any time through (i) transfer to a Custody Wallet, if available to you, or (ii) a complete or partial withdrawal of Eligible Digital Assets at any time. Such repayment will terminate in whole or in part your loan to Celsius and you shall no longer accrue Rewards on the amount of loans as of the time of your exercise of the call option. Celsius initiates the withdrawal process immediately following a withdrawal request when possible; however, we may require up to three (3) days after you submit your withdrawal request to process the withdrawal.

For every withdrawal request, you will be required to provide the details of the Virtual Wallet to which you wish to receive your repayment of Digital Assets. For the avoidance of doubt, any repayment shall be in-kind (i.e., in the same type of Eligible Digital Assets loaned by you, but not the actual same Digital Assets originally transferred by you). In the event that the details you provide

are inaccurate, incomplete, or misleading, your Digital Assets may be permanently lost. We will not be liable for any loss that results from inaccurate, incomplete, or misleading details that you may provide for such transfer. If the transfer address you specify is one to which we are unable to process transfers, we will have no liability for any resulting failure or delay in processing your requested withdrawal.

Celsius and our third-party partners may experience cyber-attacks, extreme market conditions, or other operational or technical difficulties which could result in the immediate halt of transactions either temporarily or permanently. Provided that Celsius has taken reasonable commercial and operational measures to prevent such events in technical systems controlled by Celsius, Celsius is not and will not be responsible or liable for any loss or damage of any sort incurred by you as a result of such cyber-attacks, operational or technical difficulties or suspensions of transactions. Withdrawal limits based on amounts and/or frequency may apply from time to time, based on legal, regulatory, AML and/or security considerations. Our policies and procedures may require additional security and/or compliance checks that require additional time to complete. Any individual request to exceed withdrawal limits set by Celsius must be sent via email to [app@celsius.network](mailto:app@celsius.network).

Every transmission request shall be deemed pending until accepted by us. We may refuse to accept such request, or delay the processing of an approved request for any reasonable reason, including but not limited to inaccurate or misleading information provided by you, or any doubt or suspicion of fraud, misrepresentation, a sanctioned transaction, money

laundering, terrorism financing or other financial crime related to your Celsius Account.

## 12. How Rewards Are Calculated and Earned

All Eligible Digital Assets that you elect to utilize in the Earn Service (if available to you) and thus are loaned to Celsius (1) are not being used as collateral for Loans, (2) have not had all rights in connection with them assigned to another Celsius user using CelPay, and (3) were not requested for external transmission or withdrawal (Eligible Digital Assets meeting each of these three criteria, **“Loaned Digital Assets”**) entitle you to Rewards while credited to your Celsius Account.

We periodically update our rates and the rate changes are made in our sole discretion. Rewards will be payable in arrears and added to the principal loaned by you to Celsius, as part of the Earn Service, and reflected in your Celsius Account balance weekly.

We calculate the Rewards on Loaned Digital Assets based on market demand for each Eligible Digital Asset. **Reward rates are not determined based on Celsius’ income or profit, generated directly or indirectly as a result of the use by Celsius of a particular Digital Asset, a type of Digital Assets, or otherwise.**

Rewards are payable based on a daily periodic rate applicable to the Loaned Digital Assets. The daily periodic rate is calculated by dividing the then-applicable annual reward rate by three hundred sixty-four (364) days; then it is further divided down to the hour, minute, and second of that day. Loaned Digital Assets, including those received as Rewards from previous weeks, will begin gaining Rewards according to the hour, minute, and second on the timestamp verifying the completion of the applicable transaction and c, or posted any Loaned Digital Assets as collateral for a Loan. Therefore, any Loaned Digital Asset that you elect to utilize in the Earn Service (if available to you) mid-week will receive Rewards with no distinction, based on the rates calculated for the relative time within the allocation period.

We will reflect the Rewards earned for the previous week on or around the first business day of each week, through our platform. Your Celsius Account must be active on the date the Rewards are payable for you to receive the applicable Rewards. All Rewards will be added to your Celsius Account balance in-kind (in the same Eligible Digital Asset that is reflected in your Celsius Account) or, subject to your in-app choice and regulatory and business considerations, in CEL. Once Rewards are added to your Celsius Account balance, they shall be treated as an integral part of your Eligible Digital Assets, you shall be deemed to have elected to utilize in the Earn Service (if available to you), including with respect to such Rewards, which shall thus be loaned to Celsius, for all purposes. To make such in-kind Reward payments as accurate as possible, Celsius rounds non-integer, rational numbers to the sub-cent, which is the smallest possible decimal available for the applicable Eligible Digital Asset.

For users who are citizens or legal residents of the United States, Celsius requires your Taxpayer ID (TIN) or Social Security Number (SSN) to be updated in your Celsius Account in order to gain Rewards. Celsius is not obligated to reflect credits in your Celsius Account retroactively with Rewards that would have been gained if you had otherwise updated your profile with your TIN or SSN.

If Celsius has determined, in its sole and absolute discretion, that for any regulatory or legal reason we are limited in the Rewards rate we may offer you on your Eligible Digital Assets loaned to Celsius (or if we are completely restricted from paying any Rewards to you whatsoever), the Rewards to which you shall be entitled will be limited accordingly. Based on our reasonable interpretation of legal requirements, without prior notice, we may limit the Rewards to which you will be entitled.

If, at any time, for legal or other reasons, a Celsius Account is suspended or frozen by Celsius, Loaned Digital Assets connected to such Celsius Account shall not be eligible to earn Rewards.

### **13. Consent to Celsius' Use of Digital Assets**

In consideration for the Rewards payable to you on the Eligible Digital Assets using the Earn Service, for us entering into any Loan Agreement, and the use of our Services, you grant Celsius, subject to applicable law and for the duration of the period during which you elect to utilize the Eligible Digital

Assets in the Earn Service (if available to you) and thus loan such Eligible Digital Assets to us through your Celsius Account, or as collateral under the Borrow Service (if available to you), all right and title to such Eligible Digital Assets, including ownership rights, and the right, without further notice to you, to hold such Digital Assets in Celsius' own Virtual Wallet or elsewhere, and to pledge, re-pledge, hypothecate, rehypothecate, sell, lend, or otherwise transfer or use any amount of such Digital Assets, separately or together with other property, with all attendant rights of ownership, and for any period of time, and without retaining in Celsius' possession and/or control a like amount of Digital Assets or any other monies or assets, and to use or invest such Digital Assets in Celsius' full discretion. You acknowledge that with respect to Digital Assets used by Celsius pursuant to this paragraph:

1. You will not be able to exercise rights of ownership;
2. Celsius may receive compensation in connection with lending or otherwise using Digital Assets in its business to which you have no claim or entitlement; and
3. In the event that Celsius becomes bankrupt, enters liquidation or is otherwise unable to repay its obligations, any Eligible Digital Assets used in the Earn Service or as collateral under the Borrow Service may not be recoverable, and you may not have any legal remedies or rights in connection with Celsius' obligations to you other than your rights as a creditor of Celsius under any applicable laws.

## **14. Hard Forks and Airdrops**

Any Blockchain may undergo software updates from time to time, which will result in a permanent divergence in the Blockchain (a "**Hard Fork**"). The

result is that such Blockchain will split into two separate and distinct Blockchains, and any Digital Asset on that original Blockchain may entitle its holders to a new type of Digital Asset (the “**Forked Asset**”). You agree and understand that the support of any Forked Asset in your Celsius Account is solely at the discretion of Celsius. If we do not make a public announcement confirming our support of a Forked Asset ahead of an anticipated Hard Fork, we will not support the Forked Asset and such Forked Asset will be an unsupported Digital Asset (“**Unsupported Assets**”), in which case all Celsius Accounts will be denominated in the legacy Digital Asset and all Rewards will accrue and be payable in the legacy Digital Asset. You agree that Celsius assumes no responsibility whatsoever with respect to those Unsupported Assets and you will not be able to recover the Unsupported Assets from Celsius. Celsius assumes absolutely no responsibility whatsoever with respect to Unsupported Assets.

In the event that a Hard Fork achieves the required consensus, it is possible that we will only support the Forked Asset and will discontinue our support of the legacy Digital Asset. In the event of a Hard Fork that entitles you to a Forked Asset, you are advised to withdraw the applicable Digital Assets from your Celsius Account prior to the relevant date for the Hard Fork. Celsius is not obligated in any way to monitor or maintain balances of Forked Asset issued to holders of the applicable Digital Assets upon a Hard Fork, or to credit you for the value of such Forked Asset. In the event you wish to receive Forked Asset issued upon a Hard Fork, you are advised to withdraw the applicable Digital Asset from your Celsius Account prior to the relevant date for the Hard Fork. All determinations regarding Hard Forks shall be made by

Celsius in its sole and absolute discretion and in accordance with applicable law.

In the event that a Digital Asset network attempts to or does distribute Digital Assets to Blockchain addresses pertaining to an Eligible Digital Asset via airdrop or bootstrapping (collectively, an “Airdrop”), the support of any such new Digital Assets in your Celsius Account is solely at the discretion of Celsius. If we do not make a public announcement confirming our support of such new Digital Assets, we will not support such new Digital Assets and such new Digital Assets will be treated as Unsupported Assets. To the extent you wish to receive the new Digital Assets to be delivered via Airdrop, you are advised to withdraw the applicable Digital Assets from your Celsius Account prior to the relevant date for the Airdrop. You further agree and understand that Digital Assets delivered via Airdrop do not create or represent any relationship between us and the sender and/or the related Digital Asset network and do not subject us to any obligations whatsoever as they relate to the sender and/or the related Digital Asset network.

All determinations regarding the Forked Assets and/or Digital Assets delivered via Airdrop will be made by Celsius in its sole and absolute discretion and in accordance with applicable law.

## **15. CelPay**

CelPay is Celsius' proprietary Digital Asset tool for Celsius Users, which allows you to transfer ownership or assign your rights with Celsius, as applicable, in connection with selected Eligible Digital Assets to other registered Celsius Users.

By using our CelPay feature, you understand and acknowledge that:

1. you are transferring your ownership to, or assigning your rights in, the Eligible Digital Assets you select when using CelPay, and that such transfers of ownership or assignment of rights may not be recorded on any Blockchain, but rather on Celsius' ledger;
2. by making any CelPay transaction, you are authorizing Celsius to deduct the corresponding amount of Eligible Digital Assets from your Celsius Account balance, and to transfer or credit such amount to the balance of the receiving User's Celsius Account;
3. Celsius is not responsible, and will not interfere in any way in, any dispute between you and the User involved in the CelPay transaction;
4. if you initiate a CelPay transaction to an unintended or incorrect User, you may irrevocably lose your rights in connection with the said Eligible Digital Assets, and it is your sole responsibility to make sure you provide the correct details when initiating a CelPay transaction;
5. the completion of a CelPay transaction may not be immediate, and it may take some time before such transaction is processed and the relevant Celsius Account balances are updated;
6. use of the CelPay feature is subject to limitations on amounts transacted, as determined in Celsius' sole discretion from time to time;
7. all transactions made through CelPay are final and irreversible;
8. by making any CelPay transaction you represent to Celsius that you are familiar with the person to whom the transaction is

made, and that such transaction is not made for any illicit or illegal purpose. You acknowledge that Celsius would hold you responsible for any damages it may incur by any unlawful use of the CelPay feature; and

9. Celsius shall not be a party to, and shall not be obligated to take an active part in the resolution of, any dispute between a transferor or transferee when using CelPay.

Celsius does not accept any liability for CelPay transactions or attempted transactions that would violate any law or regulation, including without limitation, KYC requirements, embargoed or restricted persons or locations, prohibitions against money laundering and/or anti-bribery laws, and structured transactions or tax evasion, the responsibility for which shall lie solely with the participating User(s). Celsius may refuse to perform, block, or otherwise void any CelPay transaction that Celsius reasonably believes could violate any law or regulation.

## **16. Taxes**

Within Celsius' platform, you will be able to see a record of the transactions related to your use of the Services which you may wish to use for the purposes of making any required tax filings or payments. It is your responsibility to determine what, if any, taxes apply to your use of the Services, and to collect, report, and remit the correct tax to the appropriate tax authority. We may deduct or make any tax withholdings or filings that we are required by law to make, but we are not responsible for determining whether and which taxes apply to your transaction, or for collecting, reporting, or remitting any taxes arising from any transaction or in connection with your

Celsius Account. You are responsible for complying with applicable law. You agree that Celsius is not responsible for determining whether or which laws may apply to your transactions, including tax law. You are solely responsible for reporting and paying any taxes arising from your use of the Services.

## **17. Service Activity Statements**

We will make all logs and records of activities concerning your use of the Services available to you through our platform only. We do not generate periodic statements showing the activity conducted through your use of the Services. You must examine these logs and records and notify us of any unauthorized use of your Celsius Account or credentials, or any error or irregularity with respect to the records of your use of the Services, within fourteen (14) calendar days after the error occurs. If notice is not received within the fourteen (14) calendar-day period, you will not be able to raise any further claim in this respect.

## **18. Conversion Rates**

Any conversion between a Digital Asset and another Digital Asset or Fiat currency shall be made by us in accordance with the rates and prices applicable at the actual time of conversion. Applicable rates are indexed to those used by industry-leading platforms, as we may choose to use from time to time, in our sole discretion. We currently use rates provided by CMC Markets, Coinpaprika, and our own rates as determined by our liquidity

providers. We may change these rate sources at any time and without giving notice or updating these Terms, and you shall not have any claims regarding our choice of rate sources or rates used by Celsius or made available by any third party.

## 19. Closing a Celsius Account

### A. Celsius' Right to Celsius Account Closure

We have the right to suspend, freeze or close your Celsius Account at any time for any reason without advance notice, including by blocking your access to the Celsius Account or the Services. If your Celsius Account has a balance when we close it, we will repay and return the remaining Digital Assets to you, including accrued Rewards earned (if applicable) until the close date, less any applicable Obligations, withholding tax and other applicable deductions, unless prohibited by applicable law. In the event of irregular activity, we may hold assets until we close your Celsius Account. Any Digital Assets that Celsius returns to you will be sent to the designated withdrawal addresses in your user profile on the Celsius platform for each respective Digital Asset you hold. Celsius Accounts are not transferable or assignable in whole or in part. Celsius may be required by law to turn over any Digital Assets related to abandoned or unclaimed Celsius Accounts to the state of your last known residence (“**Escheatment**”). Escheatment periods vary by jurisdiction, and you are responsible to determine the applicability of such laws in your place of residence. Celsius reserves the right to recover any administrative charges,

payments, or fees which it may incur in connection with such unclaimed or abandoned Celsius Accounts, as permitted by applicable law.

#### B. Your Right to Close Your Celsius Account

If you want to terminate your Celsius Account with Celsius, you may do so by notifying Celsius at support@celsius.network. Once your Celsius Account is closed, you agree: (a) to continue to be bound by these Terms, as required by Section 35 below (Survival) (b) to immediately stop using the Services, (c) that we reserve the right (but have no obligation) to delete all of your information and Celsius Account data stored on our servers, and (d) that we shall not be liable to you or any third party for termination of access to the Services or for deletion of your information or Celsius Account data. You acknowledge that any legal obligations you may have under any other agreement with Celsius or its Affiliates (including any Loan Agreement or agreement governing lending or investing in Celsius or its Affiliates) will not be affected in any way by the termination of these Terms and any such other agreement between you and Celsius will continue to be in effect<sup>195</sup> in accordance with its terms.

## **20. Liability for Unauthorized Transfers from Your Celsius Account**

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<sup>195</sup> It should be noted that when Celsius failed to close the account as required in this section, the entirety of the contract was breached/voided.

If you believe that your Celsius Account has been used by an unauthorized party, or if your Service Activity Statements reflect activity or transactions that you did not conduct or authorize, you must notify us IMMEDIATELY via email to [security@celsius.network](mailto:security@celsius.network). **YOU ARE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE SECURITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF YOUR LOGIN DATA, AND YOU ACCEPT ALL RISKS OF UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS AND USE OF YOUR CELSIUS ACCOUNT.**

## 21. Eligible Digital Assets

We may, from time to time and in our sole discretion, add and/or remove certain Digital Assets from our list of Eligible Digital Assets. If a Digital Asset is removed, it will no longer be available to be used in connection with our Services. We will seek in good faith to notify our Users of our intention to add and/or remove Digital Assets in connection with any of our Services as soon as commercially reasonable. However, under certain circumstances (e.g., for regulatory reasons) such changes may be required to be made immediately and without prior notice. In the event any Digital Asset ceases to be an Eligible Digital Asset, you will no longer be entitled to receive any Rewards in connection with our Earn Service (if available to you), or otherwise make any other use of it via our Services. We may choose to disallow the use of any Eligible Digital Asset for certain Services, or treat any Digital Asset as an Eligible Digital Asset for certain Users or groups of Users for certain Services, in our sole discretion. We may, from time to time, provide certain Services in connection with certain Eligible Digital Assets by different entities within the

Celsius group, and any change in and/or assignment by the contracting entity shall not be considered an amendment of these Terms.

## **22. Disclosure of Celsius Account Information**

We may disclose information to third parties about you, your Celsius Account, or the transactions you make:

1. where it is necessary for the provision of our Services under these Terms;
2. in order to verify the existence and condition of your Celsius Account for a third party, such as a referral partner;
3. for the purpose of conducting our AML and KYC checks and compliance with applicable laws;
4. If you give us written authorization;
5. In order to comply with any request or order by any government agency or competent court; or
6. As described in our Privacy Policy  
(<https://celsius.network/privacy-policy/>)

## **23. Conflict/Disputes Involving Your Celsius Account**

We are not liable to you for errors that may result in a financial loss to you. We may take any action that is authorized or permitted by these Terms or applicable laws without liability to you, even if such action causes you to incur fees, expenses or damages. If third parties make claims on your Celsius Account, or if we receive conflicting instructions from you, or if we become involved in or concerned about a dispute between you and any third party, we reserve the right to react in ways that we believe in good faith to be

appropriate, including by closing, suspending or freezing your Celsius Account, delivering the Digital Assets available therein to you or to any third party, or interpleading assets to court, all as we reasonably deem appropriate under the circumstances. You are liable for all expenses and fees we incur for such conflicts or disputes, including internal costs and attorneys' fees, and we may charge or deduct them directly from your Celsius Account balance.

We are not responsible for delays or losses incurred as a result of an error in the initiation of any transaction and have no obligation to assist in the remediation of such transactions. By initiating any transfer or using Celsius' Services in any way, you attest that you are transacting in an Eligible Digital Asset which conforms to the particular Virtual Wallet into which assets are directed. For example, if you select an Ethereum Virtual Wallet Address to receive assets, you shall be solely responsible to assure that you are initiating a transfer of Ethereum alone, and not any other currency such as Bitcoin or Ethereum Classic. Celsius incurs no obligation whatsoever with regard to non-Eligible Digital Assets sent to Celsius, or for Eligible Digital Assets sent to an incompatible Virtual Wallet Address. Erroneously transmitted assets will be lost. We recommend users send a small amount of Digital Asset as a test prior to initiating a transfer of a significant amount of Digital Assets.

**We reserve the right to limit access to your Celsius Account, which can include temporarily or permanently removing your Celsius Account access via the internet, and/or restricting your Celsius Account, and/or closing your Celsius Account without prior notice to you (unless prior notice is required by law), and we shall have no liability for such actions.**

**In addition, Celsius reserves the right to withhold or delay the transmission of assets to you if you fail to comply with these Terms. Our total aggregate liability to you for any claim is limited to the face value of the applicable item or transaction, or the actual value of any assets not properly credited or debited by us.**

## **24. Legal Process Affecting Celsius Account**

If any legal action, such as an attachment, garnishment, levy, seizure, third party claim or enforcement action by any competent authority in any jurisdiction (“**Legal Process**”) is brought against or in connection with your Celsius Account, we may refuse to permit (or may limit) withdrawals or transfers from your Celsius Account until the Legal Process is satisfied or dismissed. Regardless of the terms of such Legal Process, we have first claim to any and all assets in your Celsius Account. We will not contest any Legal Process on your behalf, and we may take actions to comply with Legal Process without liability to you, provided that we reasonably believe any such action is appropriate under the circumstances. If we incur any expenses in connection with any Legal Process, including without limitation reasonable attorneys’ fees, we may charge such expenses and fees to any of your Celsius Accounts without prior notice to you, or we may bill you directly for such expenses and fees. Any garnishment or levy against your Celsius Account is subject to our right of setoff and security interest.

## **25. Indemnification and Limitation of Liability; Legal Fees and Costs for Lawsuits**

You agree to indemnify and hold harmless Celsius and its Affiliates, and their respective employees, managers, officers, directors, partners and shareholders from any losses, damages, suits and expenses, of whatever kind, including reasonable legal fees, that we incur in connection with or arising out of your access to or use of the Services, or our activities in connection with such Services, and for your breach of these Terms or violation of any law, regulation, order or other legal mandate, or the rights of a third party, or any act or omission by you or any person acting on your behalf while using your Celsius Account, regardless of whether the specific use was expressly authorized by you. You agree to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, or rules, and to not use your Celsius Account or the Services for any transaction or activity that is illegal or violates applicable laws, regulations or rules. Please note, your agreement to comply includes any and all applicable laws and regulations of the United States, as well as of your place of residency, citizenship, business, locality and any law applicable to you.

We are not liable to you for claims, costs, losses or damages caused by an event that is beyond our reasonable control (e.g. the acts or omissions of third parties, natural disaster, emergency conditions, government action, equipment or communications malfunction). We are not liable for special, incidental, exemplary, punitive or consequential losses or damages of any kind. Except for any setoff permitted by applicable law and Section 9 of these Terms, any

obligations of ours may be satisfied solely from the assets of Celsius. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, in no event shall you have any recourse, whether by setoff or otherwise, with respect to our obligations, to or against any assets of any person or entity other than Celsius, including, without limitation, any member, shareholder, Affiliate, investor, employee, officer, director, agent or advisor of Celsius. For the avoidance of doubt, the foregoing shall not limit any setoff permitted by applicable law and Section 9 of these Terms.

## **26. Disclaimer of Warranty**

**THE CELSIUS SERVICES ARE PROVIDED ON AN “AS IS” AND “AS AVAILABLE” BASIS WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY UNDER THESE TERMS AND TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY APPLICABLE LAW ALL EXPRESS OR IMPLIED CONDITIONS, REPRESENTATIONS, AND WARRANTIES INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OR CONDITIONS OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, SATISFACTORY QUALITY, OR ARISING FROM A COURSE OF DEALING, USAGE, OR TRADE PRACTICE, OR WARRANTY OF NON-INFRINGEMENT ARE DISCLAIMED. IN NO EVENT SHALL CELSIUS, ITS AFFILIATES AND SERVICE PROVIDERS, OR ANY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, JOINT VENTURERS, EMPLOYEES OR REPRESENTATIVES, BE LIABLE (A) FOR ANY AMOUNT GREATER THAN THE VALUE OF THE BALANCE OF YOUR CELSIUS ACCOUNT(S) OR (B) FOR ANY LOST PROFITS, DIMINUTION IN**

VALUE OR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY, ANY LOSS, DAMAGE, CORRUPTION OR BREACH OF DATA OR ANY OTHER INTANGIBLE PROPERTY OR ANY SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, INDIRECT, INTANGIBLE, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, WHETHER BASED IN CONTRACT, TORT, NEGLIGENCE, STRICT LIABILITY, OR OTHERWISE, ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH AUTHORIZED OR UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE CELSIUS SERVICES OR THE CELSIUS ACCOUNT, OR THESE TERMS, EVEN IF AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF CELSIUS HAS BEEN ADVISED OF OR KNEW OR SHOULD HAVE KNOWN OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.

CELSIUS MAKES NO REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT THE ACCURACY, ORDER, TIMELINESS OR COMPLETENESS OF HISTORICAL OR CURRENT ELIGIBLE DIGITAL ASSETS PRICE DATA AVAILABLE THROUGH THE CELSIUS SERVICES. CELSIUS WILL MAKE REASONABLE EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT REQUESTS FOR TRANSACTIONS ARE PROCESSED IN A TIMELY MANNER BUT CELSIUS MAKES NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES REGARDING THE AMOUNT OF TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE PROCESSING (WHICH IS DEPENDENT UPON MANY FACTORS, INCLUDING THOSE OUTSIDE OF OUR CONTROL), AND CELSIUS SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY LOSSES OR DAMAGES WHICH YOU MAY INCUR AS A RESULT OF ANY DELAY IN THE PROVISION OF THE SERVICES.

## 27. Disputes, Binding Individual Arbitration, and Class Actions and Class Arbitrations Waiver

**A. Disputes.** The terms of this Section shall apply to all Disputes between you and Celsius. For the purposes of this Section, “Dispute” shall mean any dispute, claim, or action between you and Celsius arising under or relating to your Celsius Account, the Celsius platform, these Terms, or any other transaction involving you and Celsius, whether in contract, warranty, misrepresentation, fraud, tort, intentional tort, statute, regulation, ordinance, or any other legal or equitable basis, and shall be interpreted to be given the broadest meaning allowable under law.

**B. Binding Arbitration:** You and Celsius further agree: (i) to arbitrate all Disputes between the parties pursuant to the provisions in these Terms; (ii) these Terms memorialize a transaction in interstate commerce; (iii) the Federal Arbitration Act (9 U.S.C. § 1, et seq.) governs the interpretation and enforcement of this Section; and (iv) this Section shall survive termination of these Terms. ARBITRATION MEANS THAT YOU WAIVE YOUR RIGHT TO A JUDGE OR JURY IN A COURT PROCEEDING AND YOUR GROUNDS FOR APPEALS ARE LIMITED. The arbitrator may award you the same damages and relief as a court sitting in proper jurisdiction could, and may award declaratory or injunctive relief. In addition, in some instances, the costs of arbitration could exceed the costs of litigation and the right to discovery may be more limited in arbitration than in court. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and enforceable by any court with jurisdiction over the parties.

**C. Small Claims Court.** Notwithstanding the foregoing, you may bring an individual action in the small claims court of your state or municipality if the action is within that court's jurisdiction and is pending only in that court.

**D. Dispute Notice.** In the event of a Dispute, you or Celsius must first send to the other party a notice of the Dispute that shall include a written statement that sets forth the name, address and contact information of the party giving it, the facts giving rise to the Dispute, and the relief requested (the "**Dispute Notice**"). The Dispute Notice to Celsius must be addressed to: Celsius Network LLC, 121 River Street, PH05, Hoboken, NJ 07030 USA, with a copy to legal@celsius.network, or to the most recent email or mailing address we have on file or otherwise in our records for you (the "**Celsius Notice Addresses**"). Any Dispute Notice to you shall be delivered by one of the communication channels you have provided Celsius, which may include email or other electronic transmission, and you agree that such a delivery of a Dispute Notice to you shall be sufficient. Should you require to obtain a Dispute Notice by any other communication channel, you must inform Celsius of such a requirement in writing. Following submission and receipt of the Dispute Notice, you and Celsius each agree to act in good faith to seek to resolve the Dispute before commencing arbitration. If Celsius and you do not reach an agreement to resolve the Dispute within sixty (60) days after the Dispute Notice is received, you or Celsius may commence an arbitration proceeding pursuant to this Section.

**E. WAIVER OF CLASS ACTIONS AND CLASS ARBITRATIONS. YOU AND CELSIUS AGREE THAT EACH PARTY MAY BRING DISPUTES AGAINST THE OTHER PARTY ONLY IN AN INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, AND NOT AS A PLAINTIFF OR CLASS MEMBER IN ANY PURPORTED CLASS OR**

**REPRESENTATIVE PROCEEDING, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION  
FEDERAL OR STATE CLASS ACTIONS, OR CLASS ARBITRATIONS.  
ACCORDINGLY, UNDER THE ARBITRATION PROCEDURES OUTLINED  
IN THIS SECTION, AN ARBITRATOR SHALL NOT COMBINE OR  
CONSOLIDATE MORE THAN ONE PARTY'S CLAIMS WITHOUT THE  
WRITTEN CONSENT OF ALL AFFECTED PARTIES TO AN  
ARBITRATION PROCEEDING. WITHOUT LIMITING THE GENERALITY  
OF THE FOREGOING, YOU AND CELSIUS AGREE THAT NO DISPUTE  
SHALL PROCEED BY WAY OF CLASS ARBITRATION WITHOUT THE  
WRITTEN CONSENT OF ALL AFFECTED PARTIES.**

**F. Arbitration Procedure.** If a party elects to commence arbitration, the arbitration shall be governed by the rules of the American Arbitration Association (“AAA”) that are in effect at the time the arbitration is initiated (the “AAA Rules”), available at <https://www.adr.org/Rules> or by calling 1-800-778-7879, and under the rules set forth in these Terms, except that AAA may not administer any multiple claimant or class arbitration, as the parties agree that the arbitration shall be limited to the resolution only of individual claims. If there is a conflict between the AAA Rules and the rules set forth in these Terms, the rules set forth in these Terms shall govern. You may, in arbitration, seek any and all remedies otherwise available to you pursuant to federal, state, or local laws. All Disputes shall be resolved by a single neutral arbitrator, and both parties shall have a reasonable opportunity to participate in the selection of the arbitrator as provided in the AAA Rules. The arbitrator is bound by these Terms. The arbitrator, and not any federal, state or local court or agency, shall have exclusive authority to resolve all disputes arising out of or relating to the interpretation,

applicability, enforceability or formation of these Terms, including, but not limited to, any claim that all or any part of these Terms is void or voidable. The arbitrator shall be empowered to grant whatever relief would be available in a court under law or in equity. The arbitrator's award shall be binding on the parties and may be entered as a judgment in any court of competent jurisdiction. You may choose to engage in arbitration hearings by telephone or by video conference. Hearings in any arbitration commenced by you that are not conducted by telephone or videoconference shall take place in New York, New York, unless there is a location in the continental United States more convenient to you, in which case the arbitration shall take place either in New York, New York, or such other location in the continental United States, at your option.

**G. Initiation of Arbitration Proceeding. If either you or Celsius decide to arbitrate a Dispute, we agree to the following procedure:**

1. Write a Demand for Arbitration<sup>196</sup>. The demand must include a description of the Dispute and the amount of damages sought to be recovered. You can find a copy of a Demand for Arbitration at <https://www.adr.org/Forms?practice=all> (“**Demand for Arbitration**”).
2. Send one copy of the Demand for Arbitration, plus the appropriate filing fee, to  
American Arbitration Association  
Case Filing Services  
1101 Laurel Oak Road, Suite 100  
Voorhees, NJ 08043  
OR  
File online using AAA WebFile at <https://www.adr.org>

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<sup>196</sup> It should be noted that arbitration was not required in the Plaintiffs case since it was below \$10,000, and thus should have been handled via small claims court.

OR

File at any of the AAA's offices.

3. Send one copy of the Demand for Arbitration to the other party at the same address as the Dispute Notice, or as otherwise agreed to by the parties.

**Hearing Format.** In all hearing formats, the arbitrator shall issue a written decision that explains the essential findings and conclusions on which an award, if any, is based. During the arbitration, the amount of any settlement offer made by Celsius or you shall not be disclosed to the arbitrator.

1. The discovery or exchange of non-privileged information relevant to the Dispute may be allowed during the arbitration as determined by the Arbitrator in accordance with AAA Rules.
2. Arbitration Fees. With respect to any Dispute where the amount claimed is \$20,000 U.S. or less (or the equivalent amount in a different currency, whether fiat or otherwise), Celsius shall pay, or (if applicable) reimburse you for, all fees paid or payable to AAA, including filing, administration, and arbitrator fees (**“Arbitration Fees”**) for any arbitration commenced between Celsius and you (and whether initiated by Celsius or by you) pursuant to provisions of these Terms. You are responsible for all costs that you incur in connection with the arbitration other than Arbitration Fees, including without limitation, fees for attorneys or expert witnesses. You must reimburse Celsius any Arbitration Fees if (i) Celsius is the prevailing party in the arbitration or (ii) you withdraw the arbitration.
3. Opt-out . You may elect to opt-out (exclude yourself) from the final, binding individual arbitration procedure and waiver of class and representative proceedings specified in these Terms by sending a written letter to the Celsius Notice Address within thirty (30) days of your initial assent to these Terms (including your first use of your Celsius Account or the Celsius platform) that specifies: (i) your name; (ii) your mailing address; and (iii) your request to be excluded from the final, binding individual

arbitration procedure and waiver of class and representative proceedings specified in this Section. In the event that you opt-out consistent with the procedure set forth above, all other terms shall continue to apply.

4. **Amendments to this Section .** Notwithstanding any provision in these Terms to the contrary, you and Celsius agree that if Celsius makes any future amendments to the dispute resolution procedure and class action waiver provisions (other than a change to Celsius' address) in these Terms, Celsius will notify you and you will have thirty (30) days from the date of notice to affirmatively opt-out of any such amendments by sending a written letter to the Celsius Notice Address within thirty (30) days of Celsius' notification that specifies: (i) your name; (ii) your mailing address; and (iii) your request to opt-out of such amendments. If you affirmatively opt-out of any future amendments, you are agreeing that you will arbitrate any Dispute between us in accordance with the language of this Section as stated in these current Terms, without any of the proposed amendments governing. If you do not affirmatively opt-out of any future amendments, you will be deemed to have consented to any such future amendments.
5. **Severability .** If any provision in this Section is found to be unenforceable, that provision shall be severed with the remainder of these Terms remaining in full force and effect. The foregoing shall not apply to the prohibition against class or representative actions; if the prohibition against class or representative actions is found to be unenforceable, this entire Section shall be null and void. The terms of this Section shall otherwise survive any termination of these Terms.
6. **Exclusive Venue for Proceedings in Connection with Arbitration .** Celsius and you agree that any proceeding to compel arbitration, confirm an award, or to seek interim or other relief in aid of arbitration, may be filed only in the competent state or federal courts located in New York County, New York.

## **28. Our Ownership of the Services and Celsius' Intellectual Property (IP)**

**You agree and acknowledge that we own all right, title and interest to and in the Services, the associated software, technology tools and content, the Celsius Network website, any logos, identifying marks, images, illustrations, designs, icons, photographs, videos, text and other written and multimedia materials, the content displayed on the website or platform, and other materials produced by and related to Celsius (collectively, the "Celsius IP"). You acknowledge and agree that no proprietary rights are being transferred to you in such materials or information, and that you have no intention of using such materials or information inappropriately or to in any way harm Celsius or any of its affiliates, directors, officers or employees. You shall not prepare any derivative work based on the Celsius IP, nor shall you translate, reverse engineer, decompile or disassemble the Celsius IP.**

## **29. Communications**

**We may record and monitor our telephone conversations with you and your electronic communications with us (chat, email, and other forms of electronic exchange). Unless the law requires otherwise, you consent in advance to such recording and monitoring and we do not need to remind you of these activities.**

**You must promptly notify us of any change in your contact information, including residential post and email address. Failure to notify us in a timely fashion may result in delay or non-receipt of notices or correspondence.**

## **30. Waiver**

**We may delay the exercise of any rights we have under these Terms, and any such delay shall not result in a waiver, relinquishment or modification of any of our rights. If we delay in any exercise of our rights, or if notwithstanding the foregoing Celsius somehow is deemed to have waived any of our rights, you are still obligated to pay us Obligations you may owe us, remove any violation of these Terms and/or otherwise follow our instructions (as applicable). Any delay or waiver of our rights applies only to the specific instance in which we decide to delay or waive the provision and does not affect our other or subsequent rights in any way.**

## **31. Changes in Terms**

Please be aware that the terms and conditions governing the Services can change over time. We reserve the right to discontinue or make changes to any of the Services. We may change these Terms, and we may add to or delete from these Terms, and the updated version will supersede all prior versions. We will provide notice of changes, additions, and deletions, as required by law. If we have provided advance notice and you do not agree with a change, you may close your Celsius Account(s) and demand repayment of outstanding loans before the effective date of the change, which shall be your sole remedy. The continued maintenance of your Celsius Account following the effective date of any change will constitute your acceptance of such change and subject your Celsius Account to the modified Terms.

## **32. Assignment**

These Terms, or any of the rights and/or obligations provided hereunder, may not be assigned or otherwise transferred by you to any other person or Entity, whether by operation of law or otherwise, without Celsius' express written

**consent, and any attempted assignment in violation of this prohibition shall be void ab initio and of no effect. Celsius may assign or transfer these Terms and/or any or all of its rights and/or obligations hereunder at any time to any Affiliate of Celsius, with or without providing you with prior notice of the same. Celsius may assign or transfer these Terms and/or any or all of its rights and/or obligations hereunder at any time to any third party by providing prior notice. Any permitted assignment or transfer of or under these Terms shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of the successors, executors, heirs, representatives, administrators and permitted assigns of the parties hereto.**

### **33. Governing Law and Venue**

**The relationship between you and Celsius is governed exclusively by the laws of the state of New York, without regard to its conflict of law provisions (other than Sections 5-1401 and 5-1402 of the New York General Obligations Law). Any dispute arising out of, or related to, your Celsius Account or relationship with Celsius must be brought exclusively in the competent courts located in New York, NY and the US District Court located in the Borough of Manhattan; however, Celsius may bring equitable relief or collections actions in any applicable jurisdiction.**

### **34. Force Majeure**

**We will not be liable for delays in processing or other non-performance caused by such events as fires, telecommunications, utility, or power failures, equipment failures, labor strife, riots, war, nonperformance of our vendors or suppliers, acts of God, pandemic or epidemic events, or other causes over which we have no reasonable control.**

## **35. Survival**

**The provisions of Sections 16 (Taxes), 25 (Indemnification), 26 (Disclaimer of Warranty), 27 (Disputes, Binding Individual Arbitration, and Class Actions and Class Arbitrations Waiver), 28 (Our Ownership of the Services and Celsius IP), 30 (Waiver) and 33 (Governing Law and Venue) shall survive the termination of these Terms.**

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## **Appendix A**

**Binance Coin (BNB)**

**Ripple (XRP)**

**Tether Gold (XAUT)**

**WDGLD**

**Get Celsius.  
Unbank yourself.**

